

5
VARIOUS METHODS
TO PREVENT
F I R E S
IN HOUSES AND SHIPPING,
AND FOR
PRESERVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AT FIRES,
WITH

An Account of Remarkable Accidents by Fire, in different Parts of the World, selected historically, for the space of One Hundred and Eight Years, to this present Period:

WHEREIN

The Negligence, of Architects and Builders, in constructing Buildings in Town and Country, is pointed out:

AND SHEWING,

That the Encouragement of Arts and Sciences is a public Benefit to those Commercial Islands.

WITH

Abstracts from the last Act of Parliament, to regulate Buildings, and prevent Fires in London.

Necessary to be known in all Families, from the lowest Peasant to the highest Peer in the Realm.

Approved by the Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

Now there was found in it a poor Wise Man, and he by his Wisdom delivered the City: yet no Man remembered the same poor Man.
ECCLES. Chap. 9th, Ver. 15th

L O N D O N:
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MDCCLXXV.

VARIOUS METHODS

TO PREVENT

THE RUSTING OF

IRON AND STEEL

BY THE ACTION OF

AIR AND MOISTURE

AND THE EFFECTS OF

WATER AND OILS

AND THE EFFECTS OF



AND THE EFFECTS OF

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AND THE EFFECTS OF

WATER AND OILS

T H E
P R E F A C E.

THE British nation is grown famous in the annals of modern history, by the wisdom of her councils, the conduct of her commanders, the heroic valour of her fleets and armies, in various parts of the globe; with the humanity of the laws, the security of property, and the liberty of religion; and where every man may address the supreme Being according to the mode and sentiments of his heart. This lenity and humanity of our government, daily entices curious artificers, and foreigners, to remove, and leave their slavish arbitrary laws and princes, and
partake

partake of our food and raiment, making themselves one amongst us, in this wooden walled island of freedom, peace and plenty : where every man may sit down in quietness, and enjoy the pleasing fruits of his art, labour, and industry, in this happy Assylum, of commerce and liberty—whereby the nation is grown both populous and flourishing, by the increase of manufactures, trade and navigation. People of common sensibility are astonished at the information, that to this present period, no public spirited member amongst us, in the polite, wealthy or learned seminaries, neither natives or foreigners, in the society of Arts and Sciences, with all their liberal premiums to encourage the polite and useful arts, nor the care and wisdom of government over the people, should never offer any premium by authority, nor pay any regular

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regular attention for the encouragement of genius—to bring forward into practice, any art or invention, either foreign or domestic, to stop the progress, and prevent the fatal effects of Fire, with the loss of many valuable lives on these occasions to the community, which every daily paper, and weekly journal throughout the kingdom, retaileth out in paragraphs to refresh our memory in the relation; with information of the ruin of houses and families by these unhappy accidents, which can never be foreseen, by the experience of years, the depth of wisdom, or the aid of human learning.

The new methods now published, and brought forth to the view of the public, for their information and inspection, is not by way of temporary expedient, which may

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be in fashion this year, and out the next, or the maxim of a school-boy, approved this day, and disapproved the next, but contains several easy practical methods to prevent many sorts of accidents, which may be carried directly into practice, at a moment's warning ; some of them without any expences to the sufferers, which for want of being publickly known have often proved fatal to the unhappy sufferers ; the truth of which is lately confirmed, by the melancholy loss of many lives, at fires in this metropolis.

The author begs leave to hope, the first regular attempt of this kind, perhaps ever laid open, published or produced, before any society or any nation in Europe, to prevent

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went and suppress the fatal progress of fires in houses and shipping, so necessary to be known in this, or any other nation, will be received favourably, and the errors or mistakes over-looked and forgiven by the indulgent public.

For this pamphlet, we presume, is not like the paper of a day, the magazine of a month, or the time killing novel, to be carelessly looked at, thrown by and forgotten, as all people are liable to suffer by these unhappy accidents, all people should have some information to be guarded against them, as far as our little line of thought, and human prudence, can direct with safety, which is the principal motive and intention of publishing this little essay—the plain sentiments

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ments of a well-meaning man, without the aid of learning, the help of friends, or the blossoms of genius ; who has neither begg'd, borrowed, nor stole from any person.

Whatever may be the merits, or demerits of these observations, they are all our own, and freely submitted to the superior judgment of the impartial public, for whether they read seriously, or lightly out of idle curiosity, they may answer the same effect, towards the safety of individuals, the benefit of private families, and the public good of the kingdom.

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CHAP. I.

WE find by daily experience, things in general that wear the face of novelty, before their designs are thoroughly understood, are either despised by a tribe of snarlers, or laughed at by ignorance. Sir Hugh Middleton, that public spirited gentleman, who brought the New River to London in 1614, and spent his fortune in that laudable attempt, was both ridiculed, and laughed at for a fool at that time, by most part of the people,

When the annals of time, had measured out above a century since that event, the House of Commons resolved, for the good of the public, to build Westminster Bridge, in 1736. The city of London. had formed such narrow ideas of the general utility of public buildings, they petitioned the house, to prevent erecting the bridge, one of the most noble fabrics, either ancient or modern, in Europe: but the House of Commons, to their honour, showed their superior sensibility, by rejecting the petition, and carried on the building with public spirit, worthy of themselves, and the people they represented; finishing a structure, by way of pattern to the universe, that contains both honour, grandeur, and public utility, to the metropolis in particular, and the kingdom in general,

In this enlightened improving age, there yet remaineth some remnants of the same narrow principles, that still prevaileth in city politics. We shall

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mention only one at present, that preventeth an open airy street, in a right line from Moorfields to the Mansion house. Such a street on this plan, would open a genteel airy prospect, and show that heavy building to some advantage, for the credit of the city; and would be the most convenient in the way of business, for the nobility, gentry, and merchants, by leading them directly from the country into the heart of the city, the centre of their wealth, trade and navigation.

The valuable character, extensive reputation, and credit of a London merchant, is known through all parts of the globe, which is honourable to themselves and their families, and advantageous to their king and country. The mystery of trade, and the profits of traffic, is but little known to the gay world, and for that reason undervalued by some of our thoughtless frenchified quality, who prefer the trifling fancies of an airy dress, to the solid maxims of serious commerce, which is the very sinews and support of these butterfly triflers. In all their dancing gaudy and dressing extravagance, without trade they would soon have a fall. Trade is the main pillar of all our strength, riches and grandeur: when that foundation is suffered to decay—remember brittons—the whole fabric must totter and fall into ruins.

The party walls between houses, and the parapet walls, to prevent the fire from running along the eaves of houses, and setting a whole line of buildings in a flame, are so beneficial to housekeepers, and plain and useful to people of the meanest capacity, was obliged to be forced into practice by act of parliament. Likewise the present new method of paving, lighting, and cleaning the streets, so convenient in day light, so safe and beautiful, at night, to preserve the lives and limbs of passengers, from many fatal accidents, that any person may walk

walk from St. James's palace, to below the Tower, into Wapping, as smooth and flat as your own parlour, with the houses numbered, and the name of the streets on every corner: which makes our streets preferable, either for walking, riding, or carriages, to all the celebrated cities in Europe. Yet this improvement, so much applauded by natives and foreigners, was forced to be brought into practice, and crammed down the people's throats by several acts of parliament. In this manner the conduct of the government, may be compared to the public, like the father to an untoward child, who must be ruled, and kept to order and obedience, for the future behaviour, manners and politeness of the obstinate boy,

The wealthy city has often been found guilty of some mistakes in building, by the public in general—their heads is better calculated for traffic, than the building of houses—but, in the humble stile of lawyers at the bar, we hope to prove, that the court end of the town is not quite innocent.

A large pile of building in Cavendish Square, with strong built walls, as high as the roof of common houses, which expresseth neither taste, beauty, nor elegance: the meaning of the projector if possible, was to prevent the very birds, and the lively rays of the sun, from peeping into the windows: for by the outside dress of this house, in comparison to other houses, it may be christened, the house in masquerade; for we believe there is not a fellow to it in the three kingdoms.

In Piccadilly, there stands in the public street, a spacious building of hewn stone, immured behind a high brick wall, the height of two stories in common houses; an elegant and a noble mansion, fit for a royal prince, but walled in rather like a state prison, then the mansion house of a British nobleman; the passengers never enjoying the view of

the house; and the noble proprietor, never beholding the lively prospect of the street. The wall is built as if to impound the air, which in this moist climate should be as free in circulation as the noble principles of liberty and religion.

Whether the first erecting these high walls;
Whether the suffering them to remain at present;
Is the greatest absurdity to common sense, and our national taste, we leave to the judgment of connoisseurs, for the honor of our present architects.

The old lady dame Wisdom, sitteth smiling and retired in her little homely cell, rather concealed from the glaring view of mortals, beholding these expensive flashes of lordly genius. The little foibles of human nature are all the same, from the whistling plowman, to the learned lofty peer. Wealth to execute, makes the difference. Foreigners of taste, and gentlemen of knowledge, are equally surprized, to perceive these noblemen of fortune and genius, contending so boldly, and heroically, for the freedom of liberty, and good laws in the senate house, and blockading themselves at home, behind strong walls, locks and bars, like prisoners of state, in arbitrary countries, so contrary to their own generous principles, and the well known principles of free born Britons.

To the Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. London.

Gentlemen, looking over the book of premiums of this Society, I observed there is no premium offered, to prevent the dreadful effects of fire.

This encouraged me to lay open my thoughts, which are the result of study on this subject, and many years observation; more perhaps than gentlemen

lemen may imagine, to the superior wisdom of this honourable Society.

Some men might have the vanity, to apply for a patent to ingross a reward for their labour and genius : as there are patents obtained, for quack medicines, and blacking of shoes, should not wonder to see patents given, for brushing a coat, and whetting of knives, things of no consequence to the public, and a disgrace to the name of a patent.

But to prevent, if possible, future scenes of calamity, by the following observations, is entirely submitted to the wisdom and humanity of this Society ;

In hopes they may be of service to the public,
In hopes they may answer the honourable views
of the Society,

In hopes they may by their experience and wisdom, reward the author, as they think proper and meet, for the honour of the Society.

Presented to the Society. April 2d. 1774.

Some time afterwards, the following Letter was sent by orders of the society.

To Mr. Bathoe.

Strand, June 3d 1774.

Sir, I am directed to return you the thanks of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, for your account of several methods to prevent fires, which you have been pleased to communicate to them,

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,
SAMUEL MORE, Secretary.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

THIS ancient large city of London, has suffered more by the calamity of fire, than perhaps any other city in Europe; and has always risen like another phenix, more beautiful and youthful, out of her own ashes. No city has so many curious machines, and ingenious inventions to surpress it; no city has better laws and regulations concerning it; yet, as it were in defiance of all those salutary laws, rewards and regulations, it is supposed by all travellers, either natives or foreigners, there are more unfortunate fires, in this metropolis, than any other city in Europe. For example, the following specimens will convince every person, male or female, in high or low life, how necessary care is at times and seasons, by way of preventing, if possible, the unhappy accidents of fire.

In 1666, there was entirely consumed thirteen thousand two hundred houses, besides the amazing value of furniture and merchandize lost in the flames. The beautiful column, called the Monument, near London bridge, was built by way of remembering this calamity. That fire is called, to this day, by way of distinction, the Fire of London.

1697, January 5th, London Gazette. Yesterday, about four in the afternoon, a fire broke out at Whitehall palace, which got to such a height, that notwithstanding all the care that was taken, with playing of engines, and blowing up part of the buildings, all the body of the palace, with the new gallery, and several lodgings adjoining, were burnt down; and the fire was not wholly extinguished till seven o'clock this morning.

Advertisement. Jan. 6th. Whereas, at removing his Majesty's goods from the Banqueting house in Whitehall, to the Horse Guards, in the night of the dreadful fire, several pieces of state hangings, and other goods, particularly an elm chest, have been miscarried, and are not yet restored, these are therefore to give notice, that all persons, having any of his Majesty's goods in their hands, do immediately bring them, or give notice of them to Peter Hume, of the removing Wardrobe, Whitehall. All persons that shall give any information of goods concealed, shall by him be well rewarded. And all persons are hereby forewarned, not to conceal, or buy any of his Majesty's goods, on pain of being prosecuted for the same according to law.

London Gazette. 1697, Jan. 10th, Whereas upon the dreadful fire, late happening at Whitehall, several boats with goods, books and writings, and an iron chest brought from thence, supposed to be stolen, were stopped by the order of Thomas Wymondesfold of Lambeth, Esq; one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Surry: the said Thomas Wymondesfold doth therefore give notice, that any person who hath lost any such goods, at the same time making it appear what part of the said goods belongs to them, may have the same again.

N. B. The above account is the only authentic record we can find concerning the fire at Whitehall.

1719, Mar. 15th, St. Catherine's near the Hermitage stairs. Mr. Parson's brewhouse was accidentally set on fire with the link of a boy passing along, by which the stable, brewhouse, and several storehouses full of beer, were totally destroyed. The flames caught hold of a hemp warehouse, near Bur street; and continued to rage with great fury,

fury, until it burned down eighteen warehouses and granaries on that side of the street, stocked with great quantities of linen, corn, &c. and the vaults full of wine and brandy. The flames crossing the street, seven or eight warehouses were burnt down, besides several others greatly damaged. But happily in all this confusion no lives were lost, and the fire was conquered with the greatest difficulty.

1738, Jan. 14th, Blackfriars, London. A most flaming fire broke out at the King's printing office, a very grand building, supposed to be the most elegant and convenient house of the kind in Europe. The fire began by some accident in the kitchen of Mr. Basket, the master of the house, and spread with such rapidity, that the family in the dwelling house, escaped with the greatest difficulty. All the printing materials, a vast quantity of paper, books in sheets, bibles and common prayer books, acts of parliament, &c. were totally consumed on this melancholly occasion, amounting, at the lowest calculation, to the loss of 20,000 *l*.

1742, County of Tyrone in the north of Ireland. About the middle of Summer, in day light, a fire broke out in a little cabin at the entrance of the town of Omagh, the county town, which consisted then of one main street, about a mile in length: the weather being then dry, and the houses covered mostly with thatch, the wind blew the flames so rapidly, that in a few minutes the whole town was in a continued blaze, so quick and violent, that the inhabitants had scarcely time to run out of their houses, to save their lives. In less than an hour's time the whole place was nothing but a scene of falling ruins: cloaths, beds and furniture all consumed, not a house saved but the church, the goal, and the sessions house, which were stone buildings, well slated, and situated at a little distance from the line of the street. The poor trades-

tradesmen, and their families, were forced to lye in the barns and stables of the neighbouring villages.

1748, March 25th, Cornhill, London. There happened a great fire in that part of Cornhill opposite the Royal Exchange, which continued two days as it were in triumph, over all the inventions of men, water and machines; intirely owing to the number of little narrow courts, lanes, and back alleys, that could not be approached for the violence of the flames. One hundred and sixty houses were consumed, valued at the sum of 300,000 *l.* which ruined many genteel families. Five or six persons lost their lives in the house where the fire broke out. This is supposed to be the greatest fire since the fire of London. A contribution was set on foot for relieving thote who were objects of charity, which amounted to 3320 *l.* and was divided amongst them according to their losses.

1758, April 11th, London bridge. While the bridge was repairing, there was erected a temporary wooden bridge, for the conveniency of passengers and carriages. About eleven at night this bridge was discovered to be on fire, and in defiance of every thing that could be thought of, continued burning till noon the next day, when the ruins fell into the Thames. Forty boats were licensed to ply on the three succeeding Sundays; and in the space of seven days after this accident, a new temporary bridge was opened for foot passengers, 500 workmen being set to work to rebuild the temporary bridge, Sundays not excepted. His Majesty's pardon was published to any person that would discover the authors of so wicked an action, and the city offered a reward of two hundred pounds for the same purpose. To this day there is no certain account, how this fire happened, whether maliciously or accidentally. As the altering and repairing the

the bridge, was looked upon to be a national benefit, the House of Commons gave a large sum of money for that purpose; the bridge Committee, ordered the workmen to proceed as fast as possible; they took down the centre peer to the foundation, and erected a large arch in the centre of the bridge, to open a freer passage for the water, and the greater safety of the small craft, in passing and repassing through the bridge; but to the disgrace of the Committee and Architects, that carried on the business, their conceptions and Ideas turned on a narrow principle, and were not equal to the grandeur and utility of the design: they ought to have taken down at least one peer on each side of the great arch, and erected two new arches, that is, one on each side of the large centre arch, in the place of the two little arches, that remaineth at present on each side of the centre arch, diminishing each new arch about five feet less in the span than the great arch. This alteration would direct the stream and force of the water more into the middle of the river, and prevent that daily nuisance of danger, the fall of the water at the bridge, so long and loudly complained of, where so many people have perished, and are still liable to the same danger, to the scandal of the city, and disgrace of our national taste. This alteration is perhaps more necessary now than formerly, as there is water works at each end of the bridge, which hinders the free ebbing and flowing of the tide; we may venture to prophecy, that the navigation of the river, will continue dangerous, and the view of the bridge disgraceful, until such a plan taketh place, or the bridge rebuilt in the modern taste, which would be the benefit of trade, the beauty of the city, and an honour to the public spirit of the nation. Were all the materials made ready and deposited together near the bridge, and a number of proper workmen employed

ployed at each arch, those two new arches might be made passable in the space of a year.

Gentlemen unacquainted with business, may think this impossible, but it's amazing with what expedition work is carried on when materials are ready prepared, and the workmen properly employed.*

1758, Sept. 10th, Wapping, London. Some time after the morning service was finished at St. John's Church Wapping, the neighbours were alarmed with the cry of fire, which is always dreadful; the house of a Sail maker near the gun dock, was in an instant all in flames, and spread to a biscuit baker's adjoining, and burnt down with great fury, fifteen houses on both sides of the street before water could be got to supply the engines. This happening at the time of low water, a large ship that was repairing in Gun Dock, was set on fire, her rigging and masts all consumed; and numbers of thieves pretending to help the poor sufferers, carried off great part of their goods and furniture. Those are the worst of thieves, and ought to be punished with the utmost severity.

1759, Nov. Cornhill, London. A fire broke out at Hamlin's coffee house in Sweetings alley, which consumed that, and the New York coffee house adjoining; and burnt down Freemans court, and eight houses in Cornhill. In the whole, there was above twenty houses burnt and damaged, besides goods, furniture, and lives lost upon this unhappy occasion,

1759,

* The plan of Sir Christopher Wren, after the fire of London, was to take away every other peer of the bridge, and build a large arch in the place of each of the said peers,

1759, December, Covent-Garden, London. A fire broke out in King street, at a noted Cabinet makers, which soon consumed three houses in the street, and extended backwards to a large work shop, and being a long time without water, communicated into Rose street, and through that into Long Acre. Upon the nearest computation, there is fifty houses entirely consumed. Many genteel house keepers, have not a bed to lie on. Three people lost their lives, and others had legs and arms broke, by timbers falling on them, striving to save some of their goods. A play acted at Covent Garden, for their benefit, produced 200 *l*. The Prince of Wales, now his present Majesty, sent 200 *l*. for the sufferers. Their loss is computed to above 70,000 *l*.

1760, March, New England, Boston, America. A most dreadful fire happened in this town, by some unknown accident, which consumed in a short time, four hundred dwelling houses besides the shops, and many ships in the river, with large warehouses filled with various sorts of merchandize, by computation amounting to above 100,000 *l*. which is supposed to be the greatest fire that ever happened in America.

The governor wrote to all the colonies, desiring their friendly assistance, to relieve the unhappy sufferers. In London there was collected, at Whitfield's Tabernacle, something above 500 *l*. for their relief.

1761, Jan. Boston, America. When we are scarcely recovered from the fright of the last fire, we are visited a second time, with the same calamity, which broke out on the North side of Faneuilhall market, and consumed the whole row of wooden buildings, from the Shore house to the Swing bridge, and communicated to that stately edifice

fice Faneuil hall, which was intirely consumed. The wind carried the flakes of fire towards King street, and the warehouses and stores on the town dock and long wharf. The slated roofs of houses, were found to be of great advantage, when the flakes of fire fell on these roofs they slipped off without doing any damage. The loss of Faneuil hall, is very much lamented. It was built twenty years since, at the entire expence of the late Peter Faneuil Esq; and took the name of the founder. This edifice was large enough to contain a thousand of the inhabitants at any public meeting.*

1761, Oct. Nottinghamshire. A terrible fire broke out at Workop Manor, the ancient seat of his grace, the Duke of Norfolk; it was first discovered in a closet near the Library, raging with such fury, that with all the assistance of the neighbouring gentlemen, and the people of the adjacent villages, it could not be extinguished. The chapel and some part of the east wing, is all that remains of this ancient and venerable building. The present duke made so many improvements, it was thought to be one of the compleatest and finest seats in all England; containing in the whole, five hundred rooms. The library and pictures, with the magnificent furniture, were almost all consumed, and one man lost his life. The loss to this noble family, is computed at 100,000 *l.* besides the loss to the villages about it, as large sums were yearly expended to workmen employed about the house.

His grace, the present Duke, though advanced in years, yet full of public spirit, and humanity, which always attends true nobility, has resolved to rebuild Workop Manor, by employing numbers of

* This Hall was afterwards rebuilt.

of poor workmen, and making their families live comfortable. In the year 1763, his Grace laid the first stone, attended by all the neighbouring gentry round the country.

1763, May 6th, Upper Brook street, Grosvenor Square. Early in the morning, Lady Molesworth's house was discovered to be on fire, by the great quantity of smoke. A man going past alarmed the family, and in less than a quarter of an hour, the whole house was in a blaze, and in a short time entirely consumed, with all the valuable furniture. Her ladyship, and her brother, with her second and third daughters, and four or five servants, perished in the flames. The moment her ladyship discovered the danger, she threw out a feather bed, and forced her eldest daughter, a young lady eighteen years of age, to take the advantage of it, by throwing herself out of the window, and calmly assisted her in so doing; notwithstanding the young lady broke her leg. Her ladyship had not time to follow, but was observed by a lady in an opposite window, to recommend herself to the divine being, and sink down directly, as if suffocated by the smoak. Her fourth and fifth daughters, jumped out of a garret window, the first broke her thigh, and the latter was terribly bruised, the height was so great. Dr. Coote Molesworth and his lady, being on a visit, became part of this unfortunate family, the doctors lady being much scorched, threw herself out of two pair of stairs window, and was terribly bruised; the doctor hung by his hands, till a ladder was brought him. Lord Molesworth, a youth 13 years of age, the only son and heir of the family, was saved from this mournful scene, being sent to school the evening before, to make room for the visitors. An elderly gentlewoman, governess to the children, threw herself out of a window and was killed on the spot. A footman jumped out of an
high

high window, and hung on the iron spikes of the rails, a chairman got him off at the hazard of his life, but the poor creature died in three days at the hospital. Many conjectures were formed concerning the cause of this fire, some said a candle was left by a music book, others that a flambeau was thrown in a dark place under the stairs, and that the watchmen were suffered to go from their stands too early for that quarter of the town. It was said many of them might have escaped; but her Ladyship had the key of the street door brought every night up to her room, and her apartment was in a blaze, before the bulk of the family discovered their danger, which prevented any relief by means of the street door.

As soon as his present Majesty was acquainted with this catastrophe, he sent the young Ladies a handsome present, ordered a house to be taken and furnished for them, at his expence, and not only continued the pension that was settled on their mother, but granted an addition to it for their life *.

1763. Dec. Scotland. The Earl of Rothes's noble antient house, at Lesley, took fire by some trifling accident, and was burnt down to the ground notwithstanding every effort that was tried to extinguish it. The valuable furniture was all destroyed, with a collection of curious manuscripts. The loss sustained, is computed at 60,000 pounds.

1765, August, Devonshire. In this month a violent fire broke out in the town of Honiton, in the afternoon, which consumed in a short time, above one hundred and fifty houses, and, to heighten their distress, a well build stone chapel, where many of the sufferers had deposited their best effects,

* There was but one house consumed by this fire.

fects, for the greater safety. What makes this fire more deplorable, the town was scarcely recovered from a former fire, which happened about seventeen years since, and reduced the town at that time almost to a heap of ruins.

1765, Nov. 7th, Bishopgate street, London. At three o'clock this morning, a violent fire began in this street, near the corner of Cornhill, almost on the spot where now stands the noted London tavern; the wind being high, and several hours without water, the engines and fire men were idle for want of it, which is a general complaint at most fires. The flames got such a head, that the four corner houses, of Cornhill, Leadenhall, Gracechurch, and Bishopgate streets, were all on fire at once, which threatened the ruin and desolation of all that quarter of the city. The fire extended to the church the corner of Threadneedle street, part of the steeple was burnt down, which occasioned the falling down of the large bell, and consumed the inside of the church. The flames then spread into White Lion court, and consumed the whole court, amongst which was the White lion tavern, which was sold the evening before, for about 3000 *l.* the wind by this time shifted, and drove the flames back into Cornhill, where five houses were destroyed, and extended to Leadenhall street, where twenty houses were consumed. On the whole, it is computed, one hundred houses were intirely destroyed, and the loss amounting to above 100,000 *l.* as many families were not insured. Numbers of genteel people were brought to ruin in a few hours, without the least fault or mismanagement in their conduct.

Parties of guards arrived from the Tower to keep off the mob. The Lord Mayor attended, and gave orders to lodge every thing that could be saved, in the Royal Exchange.

Next

Next day a gentleman was positive, that some people lay under the ruins : he boldly ventured on a pile of ruins, and pointed to a spot ; the firemen came with their long poles and pick axes, and dug out, alive, to the great comfort of their families, two men, three women, and a child six years old, as also a dog and two cats, to the amazement of all the spectators.

The day following, as workmen were clearing away rubbish, looking among the ruins for plate, a stack of chimneys fell down in an instant, by which unhappy accident, eight men lost their lives, and several had their limbs broken and bruised, in a deplorable manner. Subscriptions were set on foot, to relieve the poorest part of the sufferers ; the Lord Mayor gave fifty pounds, Ironmongers and Grocers companies, one hundred pounds each, and his present Majesty one thousand pounds. The whole amounting to 3000 l. part of which was distributed, among the widows and children of the poor men killed by the stack of chimneys.

N. B. This is the third fire, in this quarter of the city, within a few years.

1766, July, Barbadoes, America. By letters received in May last, a most dreadful conflagration happened at Bridge Town, the capital of this island. It began in the High street, at 11 o'clock at night, and raged with such fury, not to be expressed in words, till nine o'clock the next morning, which intirely consumed four hundred and forty houses, with the custom house, and other public buildings, the annual rents of which, amounted to the sum of 16,421 l. besides a number of warehouses, well stored with all sorts of goods, and merchandizes, the value of which cannot be justly estimated. On this calamitous occasion,

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the legislative body of the island were summoned together, who proceeded to provide for rebuilding the town, and likewise relieving the unhappy sufferers. In a few days, above one thousand pounds was subscribed for their immediate subsistence, and beginning to clear away the melancholy ruins. The whole damage sustained, by this unhappy fire, is estimated at 300,000 *l.* sterling

1767, Sept. 9th, Budge row, Cannon street, London. This morning a fire broke out at a stocking trimmers, opposite St. Antholin's church, which intirely consumed the same; the flames were so rapid, that the master and mistress of the house were forced to leap from a two pair of stairs window into the street; the wife, being big with child, was killed on the spot, the husband broke his thigh, and two of his ribs, carried to the hospital without hopes of recovery; a child two years old was saved by being caught in a blanket; the man and maid servant made their escape over the tops of houses. By the activity and conduct of the fire men with engines, the rest of the neighbourhood was happily preserved.

1767, Nov. Rhode island, America. The ship Dolphin, belonging to this island, sailed from Jamaica loaded with rum, and some gentlemen and ladies passengers, and arrived safe, within three or four hours sail of the town of Newport in the said island. A negro boy at ten o'clock at night, went down to draw some water, but mistook the cask and broached a cask of rum, the flame of the candle caught hold of the rum, the boy was so affrighted, he forgot to stop the running of the rum, and in less than a minute, the head of the cask flew off, and communicated the flames, to fifteen other casks between decks. All means to extinguish it was impossible; in a short time the ship was all
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in flames, and reduced twenty six persons, both sailors and passengers, to a scene of distress and danger, that cannot be expressed in words: husband and wife, parent and child, brother and sister, between whom the merciless flames were making a cruel separation for ever. With great difficulty and hazard of their lives, they hoisted out the two small boats, and crowded into them as soon as possible, but three ladies and two children were lost in the ship. The passengers effects, were worth 2000*l.* and the ship and cargo valued at 4000*l.* sterling. The vessel continued burning till next morning, and sunk intirely.

1768, August, Holborn-bridge, London. By a trifling accident, a violent fire happened at the Kings Arms Inn. In the yard backwards, the master of the house where it began, saved his life by leaping out of a window, but his wife and child, with his sister, perished in the flames, a neighbour jumped out of a window, and expired in a few minutes. The porter of the inn having lost both his wife and child, died raving mad, occasion'd by the grief and fright. A clerk to a Merchant, having saved his wife and child, returned for a box of money and writings of his master's, was unhappily lost in the flames. Three people were killed by endeavouring to leap out of windows. A more dismal scene of distress was never beheld in this neighbourhood.

1768, Dec. 20th, Rochester, Kent. A most terrible fire broke out at an undertakers; two young women servants were burnt to death; a poor soldier climbed on the roof, fell in with it, and shared the same unhappy fate; seven houses in front, with stables, back houses and hay stacks, were consumed. The master of the house, where it began, was so much affected with the distress of this calamity, his melancholy over-powered his reason so much, that he cut his throat, and expired the next day, lamented by all the neighbours.

1769, May 2d, Crediton, Devonshire. About eleven o'clock at night, a violent fire broke out in the prime part of the town, called West town, which reduced to ashes, from the top of Bowden hill, to the Corn market, and Back lane in length almost half a mile; by which unhappy misfortune above two hundred houses are destroyed, and many families, who lived genteely and comfortably, brought to ruin in a few hours.

In their distress for want of shelter, they were forced to lie in an orchard two days and a night. This is the second time, they have suffered by this calamity; about sixteen years since, a former fire consumed four hundred houses, besides the market house, and other public buildings, valued above 50,000 l.

Three years afterwards another fire happened in the town of Crediton, which consumed forty houses, and ruined many families in a few hours. This is the third fire within a few years.

1769, Sept. St. Paul's wharf, London. A terrible fire happened at an Oil warehouse, which soon consumed three houses, and made its way into a large timber yard, which destroyed a vast quantity, and extended to two lightermen on the river, which were burnt. During the conflagration, the Thames seemed to be on fire, as the oyl kept both swimming and burning at the same time on the surface, which amazed every person, and likewise caused a mortality among the Swans in that part of the river. The timber, with the oil lost and consumed, is valued above 20,000 l.

1769 Sept. Island of Antigua. By the last accounts, in the month of August, a violent fire broke out in the town of St. John's, by which the whole place is almost reduced to ashes, with the Custom

Custom house, and store houses; the poor innocent sufferers are reduced to great want and hardships. The court of common council ordered the chamber of London, to give five hundred pounds for their relief; the town of Liverpool collected 376*l.* for the same purpose, and his present Majesty, ordered one thousand pounds to be shipped off directly, and distributed among the inhabitants, under the care of the governor and ten of the principal merchants of the island.

1770, Jan. Pater-noster-row, London. A dreadful fire broke out, at Messrs. Johnson and Payne, eminent booksellers, which consumed the said house, and several others adjoining, and likewise the warehouse wherein was kept the Bibles and Common prayer books belonging to the proprietors of the Oxford press, which are all consumed by this accident, and were valued above ten thousand pounds,

1770, July 27th, Portsmouth; Hampshire. About four o'clock this morning, a fire was discovered at the upper end of the laying house, in the dock yard, which soon communicated to the new hemp house, the carpenters shops, and the little mast house, all which buildings were intirely consumed, with the greatest part of the stores they contained, consisting of two or three hundred tons of hemp, a great quantity of tar, pitch and sails, besides rigging and masts for ships of all sizes, and all the timber that lay near the said buildings. Several persons have lost their lives, and many have their limbs broken. Some people are confined on suspicion of setting it wilfully on fire. There is consumed in stores, besides the buildings, as many ropes, sails, masts, &c. as were sufficient to equip for sea, a fleet of thirty men of war, for any station or service on the face of the Globe. The loss sustained by this unfortunate fire, at the lowest calculation, and transmitted up to the Lords of the Admiralty,

miralty, amounts to the sum of 150,080*l*. Orders were sent to all the royal dock yards, to double the guards, and admit no strangers, without proper examination. By what accident this fire happened, to this day is not known.

1770, Aug. 15th, Greenwich, Kent. In the night, a terrible fire happened behind Mrs. Crowley's iron manufactory, which consumed above sixty houses. It is thought to be done by some malicious persons, either to destroy the King's warehouses at that place, or this lady's store houses and manufactory, who annually employs several ships between London and Newcastle, to carry on their trade and manufactory; employing, the year round, and pays weekly, about four thousand people; making every thing, as the workmen express it, from a needle, to an anchor. It is supposed by all merchants, either natives or foreigners, to be the most extensive trade carried on by one family, independant of an united company, in the known world.

1772, May, Throgmorton street, London. A violent fire broke out, at a linnen merchant's in the wholesale trade, which consumed above twenty houses, with the beautiful hall belonging to the Company of drapers; the flames were so rapid and furious, that most of the inhabitants lost their all. Had it not been for party walls, that retarded the fury of the flames, instead of twenty houses, the whole street to the Royal Exchange, might have been entirely consumed.

A coachman was killed by trying to save some of his master's effects; two children were taken out of a house, and a third forgotten in the fright and confusion, which perished in the flames; two maid servants pulled a fellow servant out of bed, who was

was fast asleep, and were lost themselves attempting to save their little cloaths. There is no accounting on those occasions for the value of things lost. The value of the linnen, where the fire commenced, is said to amount to thirty thousand pounds, as most of the house keepers, were merchants and men of opulence in this neighbourhood.

N. B. This is the fourth fire, in this quarter of the city, within a few years.

1772, Dec. Paris, France. About ten o'clock at night, by some accident, a violent fire broke out at the Hotel Dieu, a large hospital for sick people. the flames were so strong and rapid, they could not be stoped; the governor of Paris, and the chief magistrates attended, and detachments of the guards were placed at all the avenues, to keep off the mob; three large apartments full of helpless sick people, were burnt down, in which a great many miserable objects lost their lives. The Nuns sleeping room, that attends the sick; the Laundry, and the old Chapel, fell a prey to the devouring flames. Several of the fire men and soldiers were killed. The Cathedral of Notre Dame was filled with beds and sick people, which were both visited and relieved by ladies of humanity of the highest rank and distinction.

This terrible accident has thrown the whole city of Paris into a scene of pity and consternation.

1773, Feb. 18th, Bishopgate street, London. About six in the morning, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. Collier, whose wife was an eminent milliner. A sawyer going to work, was the first who discovered the flames; the man servant in the garret first heard the alarm, and had but just time to rap at his Master's chamber, to awake him and the rest of the family.

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The smoke and the flames increased so fast, he was forced to creep along a beam, to a window in a house backwards; a young woman had got to the same beam, when the floor gave way, and she sunk down in the ruins. A gentleman belonging to the bank, opened his chamber door, the smoke and flames flew in his face, calling to his wife to follow him, he groped his way to a window, and flung himself into the street, and was saved; his wife perished in the flames; a maid servant, and a young lady an apprentice, were both lost together. Mr Collier was seen by the opposite neighbours, and called to leap out of the window, but having his wife in his arms, guarding her from the flames, who was big with child, and being a very happy couple, he would not leave her, thus they fell together in the Ruins, much lamented by all their friends and neighbours. By the burning this single house, seven persons unhappily lost their lives.

This being a new built house, was a full story higher than the houses of each side, which prevented any relief from their garret windows. It was supposed the fire was occasioned by leaving linnen drying at the fire of the kitchen *.

1773, June 6th, Cornhill, London. This morning at two o'clock, a fire broke out at an hosier's in this Street, which consumed the same, with all the stock in trade, and furniture; the family made their escape with great difficulty, to the roof of the house adjoining, which was likewise burnt, with their stock in trade, and furniture, and likewise the next house; the flames then spread backwards into Lombard-street, and consumed an oil shop, a baker's, and the

* A ladder would have saved their lives.

the honey ware-house, and did great damage to several others; two people were killed by the falling of a wall.*

1774, January 30th, Tower, London. A dreadful fire broke out in this fortress, which consumed two or three houses, and was extinguished with great difficulty, before it reached some of the public offices; the fire broke out at Mr Woodward's, whose daughter threw herself from the top of the leads, and was so bruised with the fall, that she died in great agonies; one Miss Jennings her companion, was caught on a Barrack bed, very much bruised, her arm broke, and scorched with the flames, but is likely to recover. These two ladies had reached the street door, but being eager to save some valuable things, ran up stairs, and the flames were so rapid, they could not return. In the memory of man, there never was a fire known in this garrison before this accident.

1774, May, King street, Covent Garden. By some unhappy accident, a fire broke out at Mr. Younger's in this street, in the night, and burned so violently, that the house which was let out in lodgings, to different people, was intirely consumed, and three young women, who could get no relief from the windows, nor passage up to the roof of the house, were unhappily lost in the flames.

A ladder or blankets would preserved their lives.

1774, Sept. 18th, Thames street, London. This day about ten o'clock in the forenoon a fire broke out in the warehoute of Mr. Rutt, Chymist and Druggist in Rutlands place, near this street, which in a short time consumed the same, with the adjoining

* This makes the fifth fire, within a few years, in this Quarter of the City.

joining dwelling house, and damaged part of the Tallow chandlers Alms houses; the flames spread into Rutland court, near Black Friars Church, consumed three houses, and damaged two others. A woman who had been brought to bed but half an hour, was carried out in her bed and saved; a young girl jumped out of one pair of stairs, and happily received no hurt; the flames were so rapid and fierce that several poor families have lost their all, and are reduced to poverty and great distress by this unhappy accident.

1774, Nov. 22d, Ratchife highway, London. Early this morning, a fire broke out in the bed chamber of a Lisbon merchant's daughter, near this place, the young lady had been reading in bed; and falling asleep, the candle set fire to the curtains which consumed the bed and the furniture before the flames could be extinguished. The young lady was very much burnt; but, happily not so much as to indanger her life.

N. B. This example, with many others, should be a warning to all persons, to avoid this dangerous custom, which in general proves fatal to the readers themselves.

A Caution,

We often hear of many fatal accidents, happening to nurses, and children playing about the fire, viz. falling down, burning their cloaths, and setting others on fire, which may be easily prevented. All families that require a nursery room, should secure the fire place, with large wire fenders, properly made to fit the chimney, projecting out in the form of a semi-circle, the height of two feet, more or less according to the size of the fire place, and painted any colour. These high fenders are both a guard to the nurses, and the children, by preventing the danger without interrupting the heat. In the royal nursery, at the Queen's house, St James's park, the square

square cavity of the fire place has a brass wire door, to prevent sparks from burning the nurses, or childrens cloaths, and the children from falling into the fire, by play or accidents.

An old lady of Quality lately had her cloaths set on fire by a spark, which burnt, and frightened her so much, that she expired in a day or two afterwards.

C H A P. III.

THIS obstinate Element of fire, so useful to mankind, must be kept in proper order, like a menial servant, by the following methods of care and precaution, to confine the progress in a narrow compass; and by that means, prevent the flames from spreading through the house. Whenever it is suffered to become our master, its rage and fury knows no bounds, nor shows no respect to persons; which can never be worked upon by charms or slight of hand, which can never be frightened or flattered into proper obedience, but must be conquered, and subdued, by the force of water; the labour and industry of men and machines. Gunpowder, which is the swiftest, and lightning-like ingredient, of all mechanical, and human inventions, by knowing how to use it with care and precaution, we find in general, this fiery substance, produces but few fatal accidents.

There is no accidental calamity, in London, so dreadful as that of fire, which no human being can foretel when or where it happens in the night, its coming upon us with all its terrors, unexpected, unprepared, and unguarded, showing no mercy to young or old, man or beast, in its progress; fulfilling the old proverb, fire and water, are good ser-

servants, but bad masters. Every master of a family ought to be as careful as possible to prevent fires, and every servant ought to be as careful as their master: when a fire once breaks out, there is no knowing how it may extend, or where it may cease; the master may be lost before the servant, or the servant lost before the master; the fury of fire makes no distinction of persons.

In all probability, when there is idle, careless and drunken people in families, fires are most likely to happen in those families; when the master is liable to be intoxicated, can he expect in his sober senses, that the common run of servants will be inspired with more care and sobriety, when the mistress is taking her pleasure, easy and careless, out of the house, are not the lower servants taking their pleasure, easy and careless in the house. Consider these things seriously, and the wonder of so many fires, in this large city, ceases.

The famous Architects, and Projectors, either travelling foreigners, or natives, that has made the Tour of Europe to gain instruction, and perfection in the science of Architecture, and has spent their prime of life in theory and practice, publishing large books of curious plans, and various rules of building, how to form the spacious dome, and rear up the curious fluted column; books that would require years to peruse, volumes upon volumes, both ancient and modern, from the little homely cottage, up to the superb lofty palace: These things are astonishing to us plain people, that men of travelling, learning and genius, should never employ their time, and adapt their theory and practice, to an object so material in the science and art of building, and absolutely necessary in their branch of business, to prevent, if possible, for
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their honour, the costly fabric from catching fire, at every trifling foolish accident which may happen, after the expence of thousands: the labour, art, and ingenuity, of so many curious workmen, lieth at the mercy or whim, of a careless drunken fellow, or a sleepy servant girl, to be totally destroyed before the morning.

Some men, by way of a mode of invention, have gone so far, by a cock-stride length of policy, to construct and finish a house, entirely upon arches; but, my dear gentlemen, this mode is both heavy, clumsy, and costly, and can never be adapted to the generality of houses. Should a wall, or an arch give way in such a house, which is very possible, by the bricks being made of bad materials, a practice too common at present, the family are in continual danger of being crushed to atoms, without any chance to make their escape. Architects, and master builders, in laying the plan, and forming the structure of a house, in town or country, of any size, height or dimensions, should contrive, if possible, some passage, or fire proof arch below stairs, and likewise a proper door out of the roof, to make a safe retreat from it, in case of fire, or other accidents.

It is a little surprizing, among so many ingenious men, with good hearts, and many amiable qualities, of this profession, amongst us at present, in this large City, who, as learned and sensible Britons, by their genius, and original inventions, has produced buildings, for strength, beauty and lightness, far superior to any foreigner that ever set foot in this island, yet they never adapted their ideas, or their plan of building, to this material object, which ought to be in their first original plan, and carried through the whole line of architecture, from the homely cottage, up to the lofty palace

palace, for their honour, character and reputation. Every house in large cities, ought to have some yard room behind, were it but three yards in length, and two in breadth, which makes the house, airy, light and healthful; but when there is no possibility of making yard room, contract the house something smaller in the back part, build two or three little arches, in the nature of a piazza, about eight or nine feet high, then project your first flooring, or back parlour, as far back as the end of these arches, and carry up the wall of the house on these arches, which will make a little yard room, and may be a place of safety, for the family or furniture, in case of fire, or perhaps to play in water to preserve the other parts of the house. The generality of houses, have some ill contrived little hole of a trap door for a bricklayer to squeeze himself out, with the help of a ladder, to mend a few tiles, or the top of a chimney; but every house, great or small, without exception, ought to have a proper door, and a ladder with broad steps, standing by it continually, to run up directly, in case of fire or any accident that happens, to save yourselves, your effects, or let down your neighbours, in these dreadful hours of hurry and confusion; two good iron bolts will secure this top door; there is more danger of thieves breaking into the lower part of the house, then the top at any time.

All houses in close narrow streets, who cannot have yard room, ought to have on the back part of the house, over the garret, a flat place, about ten or twelve feet square, to hang out linnen to air and dry, which is safer, and preferable to the kitchen fire, and likewise a place of retreat in case of fire, for yourselves or neighbours. This place leaded over properly, will be less expensive, more airy and pleasant, then covered with a roof in the common method.

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There are some houses, where the master is so thoughtless, and insensible of danger, to himself and his family, that have their garret windows secured on the outside, with rows of iron bars; their party walls covered, with criss-cross-rows of sharp iron spikes: what must become of these masters, and families, if a violent fire broke out in the lower part of the house, I leave ever man of sense to judge. The Play houses, and all other public places of diversion, or amusement, where numbers of people are crouded together in a small compass especially the galleries, whose stairs, and present doors, are most shamefully narrow for the audience in coming out, and inconvenient to every person, they should have large folding doors, and proper apertures, that may be thrown open at a minute's warning, for the people, in case of fire, rioting, fighting, or any accidental misfortune, without being squeezed, and trampled to death, on these hurrying occasions, which has fatally happened in many places, both at home and in foreign countries.

Many persons, both young and old, have an absurd custom of reading books in bed; there is not any thing more dangerous, which never ought to be suffered in any house. How many unhappy individuals, have lost their lives on these occasions, and the house consumed into the bargain. It is confirmed by the wisest observations, the generality of fires in this large city, proceeds from some species of neglect and carelessness,

To make the misfortune of fire more terrible, and continue longer, to the unhappy sufferers, perhaps for an hour there is a scarcity of water; every parish watch house should have a key to the water cocks, where the turn-cocks of the company sets on the water, that any person may run directly, and turn on the water, to supply the engines with greater plenty.

All

All churches, chapels, public halls, and public places of pleasure or business, require to have public pumps, fixed in open places, for a ready supply of water to themselves, and their neighbours, in cases of necessity; likewise two or three light ladders, each ladder about twenty feet in length, with two iron staples in each ladder, to join or lock into one upon occasion, to help people, or goods out of windows with safety, giving a little premium by the parish, or the offices of insurance, will answer the purpose. The commissioners of pavements, should fix up public pumps in every street, as they have done in some particular places. Spring water is always valuable, in town, especially in a hard frost, when repairing the common shores, or mending the water pipes, and in dry windy weather, to water the streets, a ready supply upon all occasions. Every public square to have a basin of water in the center, like St James's square, and Lincolns-Inn-fields, which is an ornament to these squares, and answers the noble design of public utility. When a fire breaks out in narrow courts, and little back streets, which too often happens, that engines cannot approach near them for the flames, when rebuilt, the court or the street, leave it as wide as possible, by way of preventing future misfortunes, making the place more healthful, by a free circulation of fresh air, this alteration will be no loss to the ground landlords; pretty snug houses, with light airy shops, though something less in number, will always let sooner, and better to respectable tenants. All the high buildings, lofty steeples and spires throughout the kingdom, especially St Paul's cathedral in London, ought to have iron conductors, fixed in the ground, at some convenient spot, in the back part of the building, then continued upwards, five or six feet perpendicular, above the highest point of the steeple, or build.

building, as they are fixed at the Queen's house, St. James's park, and many houses of the nobility and gentry.

When the clouds descend very near the earth, in the gross heavy atmosphere, of this large city, which often happens, these iron conductors attract the lightening, when it breaks from the cloud, and conducts it to the ground with safety, preventing any damage to the building, by the amazing force of the lightening; which accident happened a few years since, to the beautiful steeple of St. Bride's church, Fleet street, for want of such a conductor; the lightening forced large stones out of their places, which fell many yards distance from the building, and shattered the upper part so much, it was taken down several yards, and rebuilt to prevent the falling of the steeple.

We often hear many dismal accounts that happen to ships at Sea, by effects of thunder and lightning, the rigging set on fire, the masts split and shivered to pieces, and many poor sailors struck dead on the deck. The vanes on the top of the masts, showing in what point the wind blows, are made of iron, this attracts the lightning, and occasions the damage to the men and the ship, as related above. Were iron conductors fixed to each mast, and continued across the deck, over the ship's side into the water, it would effectually prevent all this danger. As ships are continually sailing into different climates where thunder and lightning is more frequent and dangerous, than any part of Britain or Ireland, is it not unaccountable, that captains of ships in the royal navy, or merchants service, should venture out to sea without such a simple precaution, when the lives, and loss of both

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ship and cargo, are often depending on the fatal consequences? For example we record the following accidents :

1758, May, Latitude 48, off Lisbon, His Majesty's ship Prince George, 80 guns. Advice is received from Admiral Broderick, that on the 13th of last month, his Majesty's ship Prince George, of eighty guns, in which the admiral hoisted his flag, by some unknown accident, took fire in the afternoon, and after burning most furiously, in spite of every effort to extinguish it, sunk entirely down about six in the evening. The admiral could not give a particular account of the people on board, who were lost, or who saved, as the ship's company amounted to 780 men, but is greatly afraid, by what he has heard, that the number lost exceeded the number saved.

The other ships of the Fleet and their boats, durst not approach near enough to save many poor souls, as the guns were going off every minute with the fire, and the danger of the ship blowing up about their ears. Anecdote: The admiral stripped off his uniform, for swimming; a poor sailor begged his clothes, put them on, and threw himself into the sea; the poor fellow was seen by one of the cruising boats, and taken for the admiral, which saved his life.

1763, Feb. Jamaica. The Brigantine Polly, in her passage from the Havanna to this island, took fire by the flame of a candle catching some Rum, drawing out of a cask; by which accident two officers, one serjeant, two corporals, seventy one soldiers, four sailors, and four women and a child, were entirely consumed in the flames.

1766,

1766, Bengal, India, Ship Falmouth. By a letter from a gentlemen aboard this ship, a thunder storm happened, which struck the ship with lightning, and they were afterwards wrecked, in the mouth of the river Ganges, and out of 360 men carried from England, there is not above half alive, the rest being burned or drowned, dead of the fatigue, or devoured by Tygers on the shore.

1769, Aug. Venice, Italy. A flash of lightning fell on the Theatre, in this city, at the time of acting, where above six hundred persons of both sexes were assembled for the evening; several of the audience were killed, the candles put out, the ladies hair burned, gold watches and ear rings melted, with diamonds and curious stones split in peices, a violincello broke to shatters, and the man received no hurt: this accident threw the whole city into consternation, and shows the necessity of conductors, and wide stair cases in public theatres.

1770, Feb. Cornwall. At the parish church of St. Koven, during the time of divine service, a most violent storm of thunder and lightning darted down on the steeple, and threw it down on the body of the church, which struck the whole congregation with fear and astonishment; happily no person was killed, but many had their cloaths singed, and their watches melted, besides being almost trampled to death coming out in the confusion.

1771, Aug. Petersburg, Russia. A violent flash of lightning struck a Galley in this harbour, and the fire communicating to others, twenty six galleys, and half galleys, were consumed, with a great quantity of stores and ammunition; the loss is computed

puted to amount to half a million of rubles : a ruble is 4s 6d. English, The shipping in the river Thames are liable to these accidents for want of conductors.

1772, March, Tabernacle, London, Mr Goodson a master Taylor, of Craven buildings, being at the late Mr. Whitfield's Chapel, in Tottenham Court Road, was struck quite dead by a flash of lightning ; his shirt was burned, and the studs in his sleeves melted, the blood vessels seemed broke all over his body, his clothes were singed, and pierced as it were with shot ; the acorn on the top of the chapel attracted the lightning, and the stream of its fury, run down along the wall, where Mr. Goodson was leaning against it. A monument is erected to his memory in the tabernacle. This accident shows the necessity of having conductors on public buildings.

1772, May, Amsterdam, Holland. The letters received from this city, brings an account of a dreadful fire, which began at the Opera house, by a candle setting fire to a rope belonging to the machinery, which communicated so rapidly among the scenes, that in a few minutes the whole house was in flames ; the confusion was so great among the audience, that all respect to persons was lost ; thirty one persons were killed on this melancholy occasion, several of them being ladies and gentlemen of distinction ; many others had broken limbs. The distress and confusion of this city, amongst the friends and neighbours of the deceased, is beyond expression : for some days after this calamity, there was very little business transacted by the merchants. Eight or nine houses were consumed and laid in ruins, by the said fire. This shows the necessity

cessity of all public places, having broad stair cases and large doors, that may be thrown open at a minute's warning.

1772, Nov. 6th, Chester, Cheshire. Yesterday being a holiday in this city, among the middling sort of people, to commemorate the gunpowder plot, a great number of both sexes, men, women, and children, went to a puppet show in the evening, at a place called Eaton's dancing room, in Watergate street. It happened unfortunately, that a few days before, a grocer had laid in a quantity of Gunpowder, in the cellar directly under the show room. When the house was full about eight or nine o'clock, by some unknown accident, the powder took fire, and produced the most dreadful shock and catastrophe, that was ever seen or known in these parts. The show room, and the room over that, with the roof of the house, were all blown up together, and the walls most terribly shattered; the fire extended among the scenes, the wardrobe and the performers, and set altogether in a blaze. Thus in a moment, the major part of the audience, were buried among the ruins, and surrounded with flames, without any possibility of helping themselves from the danger; so that besides those who were burnt to death, or killed on the spot with the falling of stones and timber, there was scarce one escaped, without being so scorched and bruised, that its feared few can survive the shock. The explosion was so great, it was felt through the whole city and suburbs, without knowing the cause, which when known, it was impossible to express the fear and consternation which possessed every person for the safety of their family and friends; but when the dead and wounded were seen carried along the streets,

streets, the scene became most deplorable, some crying, others fainting, and some even mad, and distracted with anguish, for the loss of husbands and wives, children and relations, brothers and sisters: in short, the confusion and melancholy on this occasion is easier to be imagined, then described in words.

The number of dead at present are forty persons, amongst whom are the show man, his wife and child; and the maimed and wounded, whose lives are doubtful, amounting to sixty six persons, male and female, besides the damage done to the adjacent buildings, as several houses were overthrown, and windows broke to pieces, at a great distance from the explosion; we hope no such unhappy accident may ever be experienced in the annals of futurity.

1772, Nov. 6th, Norwich, Norfolk. Yesterday being a public holiday for the gunpowder plot, some idle men and boys were letting off fire-works, and throwing squibs about the market place; by some accident a lighted serpent fell into the cellar of an out house, belonging to an oil merchant, and got among some shavings, that lay under a barrel of oil, which barrel catching fire, set the cellar in flames, and communicated to the merchant's dwelling house, and burnt down that, and eight other houses; the merchant's family is totally ruined, and the falling of a wall killed one person, and bruised five or six others, The loss sustained by this foolish accident, is computed above ten thousand pounds.

These holidays amongst the common people always produces more evil than good.

1773, Aug. 14th, St. George's fields, Southwark. Last night a most violent storm of thunder and lightning continued, with some intermissions, the whole length of the night, which amongst other places, struck the obelisk in the centre of the road leading to Black Friars, and London bridges, with such amazing force, that the crown stone of the base was opened an inch assunder, and the seventh stone from the top of the spire, was split through, wide enough, to see through it on each side of the pillar, and likewise did some damage to St Peters church in Cornhill; besides many other accidents, Horses running away and overturning Coaches, people struck dead on the roads, and great damage done amongst the shipping, by shivering the masts to pieces, and poor sailors lost their lives in the confusion below London bridge.

A greater storm of lightning has not been seen for some years in London.

1774, July, Elsenour, Denmark. We have had a most violent storm in this place; early in the morning, a flash of lightning fell upon the highest Tower of our Castle; all the assistance possible we could think of, was tried, but could not extinguish the fire; the Tower is so high and narrow at the top, the water from our engine could not reach it, and was forced to fire four cannon balls at it, which broke down the highest part, and caused the flames to burst out with great violence; the wind being high, threatened the whole place with destruction, as forty thousand pounds of powder, with a number of loaded bombs, and magazines of powder, were near the castle. All the inhabitants were preparing to leave the place, but happily the wind ceased

ceased, and a heavy shower of rain helped us to extinguish the flames, and relieved our distresses.

Extract from the 11th letter, in the Tour of Sicily and Malta, by Brydone, F. R. S. published by Cadel in the Strand, 1774: Showing the power of lightning on ladies wire caps.

How little do our ladies imagine, when they surround their heads with wire, the most powerful of all conductors, and at the same time wear stockings, shoes, and gowns of silk, one of the most powerful repellants, that they prepare their bodies in the same manner, and according to the same principles, as the electricians prepare their conductors, for attracting the fire of lightning. If they cannot be brought to relinquish their wire caps and their pins, might they not fall upon some such preservative as those which of late years have been applied to objects of less consequence—Conductors.

Suppose every lady should provide herself with a small chain or wire, to be hooked on at pleasure during thunder storms; this should pass from her cap over the thickest part of her hair, which will prevent the fire from being communicated to her head, and so down to the ground. It is plain this will act in the same manner as the conductors on the tops of steeples, which from the metal spires that are commonly placed there, analogous to the pins and wires, were so liable to accidents. You may laugh at all this, but I assure you I never was more serious in my life.

A very aimable lady of my acquaintance, Mrs. Douglas of Kelfo, on the North side of the river Tweed,

Tweed, had almost lost her life, by wearing one of those caps mounted on wire. She was standing at an open window during a thunder storm, the lightning was attracted by the wire, and the cap was burnt to ashes ; happily her hair was in its natural state, without powder, pomatum or pins, which prevented the fire from being conducted to her head, for as she felt no kind of shock ; it is probable that it went off from the wires of the cap to the wall close to which she then stood. If it had found any conductor, to carry it to her head or body, in all probability she must have been killed : a good strong head of hair if it is perfectly clean and dry, is probably one of the best preservatives against the fire of lightning, but so soon as it is stuffed full of powder and pomatum, and bound together with pins, its repellant force is lost, and it becomes a conductor.

Amongst such a number of experienced men, who are Commanders, Captains, and owners of ships, how they can continue so fool-hardy, in such an error, which seems like putting the elements to defiance, when they know they are continually liable to danger, and the remedy so certain and easily put in practice, is something amazing.

By this specimen of their conduct, we have some room to imagine, that sea-faring people in general, do not pay due attention to the force and powers of attraction, so readily as other men ; whereas no other set of men have it so much before their eyes, neither is any man required to know it so well in common practice, as their course of life and fortune in sailing depends so much on the true knowledge of attraction. They are obliged to observe the constant motion of the needle in the compass box, where they perceive it continually attracted by the North pole, to guide them with safety

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through their course and voyages, into their happy wished-for port. They perceive that the ebbing and flowing of the tides are entirely governed and attracted by the power and influence of the moon, to be the means of guiding and directing them to escape the dangerous rocks and sands in sailing into port, or going out of different harbours; and there is no people in the universe so easily led and attracted as sailors themselves; in their exalted ideas, of either valour or pleasure, their notions of undaunted bravery, and heroic courage, when mixed up together, with the honour of Britain, like the ingredients in a chearful glass of punch, will make them freely venture, at any time, their life and limbs for glory, and fight the very devil in the shape of a Frenchman, aboard a ship, for their king and country. When they are safely landed on shore, a blind scraper of a fidler, where you can scarcely distinguish the minuet from the country dances shall spirit him up by mirth, and musical attraction, into singing, dancing, and drinking, until he has not a shilling to bless himself, of the produce of two years wages.

A poor aukward clumsy dowdy of a female, shall attract him into all the pleasing charms of constant love and wedlock, in the space of half an hour's acquaintance, and the dear earned seafaring wages, shall fly out with pleasure, to rigg Moll out in silks, caps, and ribbons, as fine as a Tragedy queen in a country barn, and perhaps in a month's time—my poor queen Moll—is stripped of all her tawdry finery, to pay the lodging and wedding expences.

My brave sons of Neptune, those are the glorious fruits of attraction, and the daily triumphs of a Wapping Landlady.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

IN this unrivalled nation of liberty, property, and commerce, through the whole circumference of the globe; where our talents and materials for commerce, and wearable manufactures, are both envied and imitated by every nation in Europe; where every plain man, through the superior excellency of our happy constitution, may freely impart his sentiments, and give his reasons to the public, without offending the laws, king, or government; where every thing that is destructive to traffic and society, and every thing promoting the good of the public, especially relative to mechanics, manufactures, and commerce, should be universally known, and pointed out to the bulk of the people, like a standing land-mark at sea, for the welfare of the present age, and the future benefit of posterity.

In the four last reigns of our sovereign Princes, the principal nobility and gentry were continually galloping post-haste from London to Paris, admiring that grand court, their fanciful dresses, and smooth oily compliments, buying at high prices their nick-nack toys, and smuggling over the Parisian clothes, showing their childish vanity and boyish pride, in wearing French fashions, second hand at St James's, as if London and our Court was some poor little paltry place, or some shabby spiritless principality, that could neither produce money, materials, or workmen.

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But, my dear Sirs, these flying post gentry, and whip cracking nobility, who were so whimsically mad, in plotting and schemeing who should be foremost to knock down the fashions, and destroy the trade, and manufactures of their native country, were such unnatural sons of Britain, they never thought of any scheme, nor laid any rational plan, to encourage their own mechanical arts, or to cause the fashions and manufactures to become flourishing in London, for their own private honour, or the public honour of their king, who was daily rewarding them and their friends, with places and titles of honour and profit, or the benefit and honour of their trading tenants, and the commerce of their country. In whatever manner the mechanical arts, and the branches of Science was carried on, either in London or the country, they were executed and supported by the spirit and genius of the bulk of the people, and the several artists themselves, without the least premium or encouragement from the body of nobility, or the government.

Until it came to pass in the womb of time, by the mysterious and happy revolutions of fate in the disposal of kingdoms, and through the benevolence and public spirit, of our reigning monarch, GEORGE the THIRD, a native Briton, inspired with the happy gifts of celestial genius, and naturally endued with the innate love of the polite arts and sciences, with the public honour and fame of his native country, has established a royal Academy, the first ever founded and established in Britain; bringing forward, in this manner, the national spirit and genius, to the general view and spirit of the public, by implanting and naturalizing, to our soil and climate, a royal nursery of polite Arts and Sciences, which is beginning to blossom, flourish and ripen, in this sea-bounded, commercial island; promoting a true spirit

spirit of taste and emulation amongst a number of ingenious curious artists, in the royal palace of Somerset house, where the professors of the different sciences explain, in weekly Lectures, the basis and proportions, beauty and symmetry of the sciences, and the pupils are daily instructed in theory and practice. This academy, in its present state of infancy, has produced to the view and judgment of the candid generous public, specimens of their art and abilities, in architecture, sculpture, and painting, which is allowed by connoisseurs, both natives and foreigners, to vie with any academy in Europe, and promises fair, to bring forth honour and benefit to London in particular, and the kingdom in general, whereby our people in polite sciences, and curious mechanical arts, manufactures, and useful inventions, are growing to a point of perfection, unknown, and even unthought of, by our former royal princes and kings, in any period of the historic page.

War, and the calamities of war, loosens all the tender ties of friendship, pity and humanity: the unlettered rough hardy soldier, laughs at the book learned sage, and all the social train of sister arts and sciences, like the boys shining floating bubbles as light as air, trifles unworthy of his warlike soul, who is marching the great prize of life, to gain glory, victory, and conquest.

The olive branch of happy peace, and the polite Arts and Sciences, are like the elder brother, and the sprightly sisters of one family; they must shake hands, and live together in love and friendship, the clashing of arms, the mad-like fury, and din of war, frightens away the timorous boy, the sprightly prince of fancy and genius, to fly for shelter to the arms of peace, in some warm peaceful clime, like
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our swallows at the cold approaching days of cloudy benumbing winter.

We learn from the Roman history, in the reign of Augustus Cæsar, who wisely finished and triumphed over a cruel civil war, introducing into warlike Rome the happy arts of peace, which had not been seen for ages; encouraging men of learning, inviting the Arts and Sciences to leave the Grecian republics, their native soil, and honour the city of Rome with their residence and blooming graces; likewise appointing a set of men at that period of time to stop the violent progress of fires, that the citizens might sleep in peace and safety in their houses, and showing to his people, a pattern of conjugal love and nuptial felicity in his own family, discouraging every sort of vice, and making his nobility ashamed to appear before him, without entering into the hymeneal tie of marriage.

Thus the Roman empire grew as famous in the arts of peace as they had been valiant in the arts of war, and arrived to a height of greatness and grandeur, superior to any period in their former ages, which to this day is celebrated by the name of the Augustan age. When Augustus slept with his fathers, there succeeded a race of tyrannical princes, without sense or virtue to consult their own interest, the good of the people, or the welfare of their country, which to a Roman Patriot was the first principle in human nature.

They launched into all manner of unnatural excesses, of brutality, tyranny and ignorance, which forced the learned to fly for refuge to other places, and of course, the sister Arts and Sciences vanished like a vision of the night, from their once favorite

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rite clime. This age was succeeded by a race of people, that degenerated into every vice that degrades the dignity of human nature; filled with pride and ignorance; their former fame, and fruitful country, invited a set of northern people, strong in body, but ignorant in sciences, to invade these people that once was mistress of the World.

Thus they fell an inglorious prey, to a race of Goths and Vandels—a warning to other nations to avoid the same unhappy fate, the very ruins of whose grandeur, to this day, astonishes the world.

In modern history, Lewis the 14th, of France, the greatest king that ever reigned in that nation, either before or since that period, by wars of ambition, and bigotry in religion, lost both his people and his honour: not contented with his paternal kingdom, the lot of Providence, he pursued an imaginary scheme of universal monarchy, which roused William the third of England, to raise a powerful alliance against him, by the wealth and interest of Holland and England: which war was carried on successfully by Queen Anne, and her general, the duke of Marlborough, that brought down the haughty Lewis to his knees, humbly suing for peace; which, by a party at St. James's, and the policy of Lewis's ministers, was finished more to his advantage than he ever expected, after the losses he had sustained in war. By his bigotry in religion, he revoked the edict of Nantz, which was a law, permitting the freedom of worship to protestants: this forced the protestants, who were the most industrious subjects in France, to leave their native towns and villages, flying for refuge by thousands, to other countries, carrying with them their arts, and private property, impoverish-

verishing the French trade, improving and enriching the English manufactures, which ought to be an everlasting maxim, like the wool-packs in the House of Lords, to give encouragement at home to our mechanical subjects.

The loss of his people, and the poverty of his kingdom, made Lewis wiser in politics. Had he commenced his reign, on the plan he finished it, he would have been the happiest prince in Europe: men of learning were encouraged and pensioned; in the midst of war, he applied sums of money to erect sumptuous palaces, founded royal academies, with pensions to professors for teaching the polite arts; his court the most brilliant in Europe, and his fame spreading abroad, attracted princes and nobility to Paris from all parts of Europe, spending their money with admiration, to behold the rich apparel of his nobility, and the ladies of his court surpassing each other in grandeur and magnificence; with all those plans regularly supported, and flourishing, in the centre of a country, almost ruined with the loss of subjects, exhausted by war, and mourning with poverty. Thus one single king, in a few years may ruin a kingdom, which cannot be recovered to flourish in ages. Charles the 12th of Sweeden is a memorable proof of this maxim, who involved himself and his nation into an unhappy war, through the whim of vanity and ambition, which ended in poverty with the ruin of trade, the loss of his brave subjects, and part of his kingdom, which to this period is not regained, and himself at last killed by a cannon ball.

When the head is corrupted, the body must soon decay with it, no person will affirm, that the innocent Arts and Sciences, was the downfall of
Charles

Charles the 12th, had his genius inclined to agriculture, and the useful arts, improving trade, building palaces, or making rivers navigable, or good inns and roads in the country, with half the spirit and eagerness that he carried on war, he would have finished perhaps a long life with honour, and left his kingdom in prosperity—whereas he was killed 1718, aged but thirty years.

The honour lost by Lewis the 14th to himself and the nation, his genius doubly regained, by laying aside the cruel arts of war, and cultivating the innocent arts of peace: and by this happy change of policy, he acquired daily fame to himself, riches to his country, and the love of his subjects, which to this day testifieth the marks of his grandeur, making his name always revered in France, and always mentioned with honour and veneration to his memory.

These three historic periods, from ancient and modern history, are convincing proofs, that from the greatest monarchy, to the smallest liliputian republic, wherever peace, agriculture and sciences, flourish, that prince and nation always flourish.

But what excuse can be offered, for numbers of our nobility and gentry, that suffer a silly Frenchified whim of dress to overcome their sensibility, and the national pride of their country, to encourage, and buy for wearing, the manufactures of any nation, that our subjects can make to perfection at home; it is both a mark of ignorance and an unnatural practice.

The unhappy wretch that ventures his life, robbing on the highway, for money to buy a coat, or

a morsel of bread ; for that single crime, forfeits his life to his country ; what punishment then do these quality deserve, who are possessed of high titles and fine estates, with every conveniency of life, but not having the honour of their king, nor the good of their country before their eyes, are daily defrauding the government of taxes, and robbing their honest fellow subjects of the profits of their labour and industry ; thus bringing to ruin and distress many thousand mechanical families throughout the kingdom, making the sons fly to America for bread, and their aged parents bending down with sorrow to the alms of the parish, and forced to kiss the cruel grind stone of poverty.

All gentlemen and ladies, when they appear at court, and other public places, ought to be dressed in a gay rich manner, which is paying a compliment of politeness to the company, and the company expect it, and showing their sense and fancy in dress, for the credit of their tradesmen, the honour of themselves, and the grandeur of their court, showing foreigners, and ambassadors, in this manner, a sample of the arts and manufactures of their fellow subjects, which is always sent home by way of news to their respective courts abroad.

What a bustle will these little scheming wits make in laying their heads together, cutting, contriving, and whispering, to make a butterfly figure on a birth day at court, running to St. James's so foppish and foolishly tricked off, to strut about the drawing room, bravo, in the finical dress, and second-hand fashions of Paris, by way of celebrating the birth day of our native king in London. At the same time, you may perceive their Majesties,
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and the rest of the royal family, with the sensible part of the nobility, so grand, noble and richly attired, all happy, gay and chearful, in the dress and manufactures of their native country. Were these sort of gentry born in Lapland, where they only make blankets, then blankets ought to be their principal dress, and blankets the pride of their country. Had these butterfly wrongheads, but the least grain of national sense, national honour, or national pride, they never would presume to appear before Majesty in the wear and tear of a foreign dress, at the very eye, and fountain of honour, sensibility, wit, and politeness, where they are as well known—and winked at—as if they wore a boarding school fool's-cap, or the man with the wooden sword, and coat of an harlequin. How often have seizures been made before a birth day at the Custom house, and in the very houses of the nobility and gentry, some of them adorned with the honours of the crown, and the account of ruffles, sacks and petticoats, French coats, and waistcoats, in all the news-papers.

Is this the modern way of showing duty and loyalty,

Is this the way of doing honour to king and country,

Is this the way to merit rewards and honours of the crown,

Is this the way of showing your genius, and national spirit.

To run into the paltry way of smuggling, for a foreign sack, coat and breeches, to show the foreign
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whim of your head, by the foreign coat on your back, this is something like the people called Quakers, shewing their religion in public, by the make and cut of their clothes—wearing in public, and encouraging these foreign clothes, and fashions, to ruin your honest tenants, making them break and turn bankrupts by dozens; banishing our roast beef and pudding to France, and thus forcing them to eat soup meagre in England: if these smuggling gentry must wear whims, let them be whims of their own invention—like themselves, originals.—

Was it a miss in her seventeens, who tried these foreign airs, to gain variety of lovers, or an old man in his dotage, they might be forgiven; but what king, or what prince, can forgive these sort of gentry in their prime of life, who are daily sending their money and orders abroad, to ruin the trade of his loyal subjects, for want of business and money at home.

With what face, or what dress, or what language can they solicit their fellow subjects, for their vote and interest, to elect them into places of honour and trust, when they set at naught the workmanship and ingenuity of their honest natives.—My noble Britons—are these sort of men fit for your patriots, who set the King and the laws at defiance, who are endeavouring to knock on the head all the premiums and improvements of the Royal society, and the society of arts, sciences, and manufactures.

But, my good Sirs, those sort of quality in general don't stop here: when you enter their houses,
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you may perceive the very smell, snuff and air of Paris; their valets, cooks, butlers and upper servants, are mostly foreigners. In their opinion, English and Irish servants, are only fit for grooms, porters, and chairmen. If their own natives don't behave well to merit their favour, they are easily traced home to their parish, town or village, from the highlands of Scotland to the mountains of Wales, to bring them to proper punishment. But these strolling foreigners, who are mostly run-a-ways, sharpers, or deserters from their own countries, rambling fellows of no property, trade, or family connexions, who are intire strangers to yourselves, your language, religion and country, where you have no tie over them, but their own word for their character and fidelity, who can assume any name, any city, any country, French, Swiss or Germans, take up any religion, or no religion, to humour the whims, and gain the favour of their masters, then strut about by your authority, take snuff and show airs, clip the King's English, and crow like a dunghill cock over the common John Trots of the family—Thus by your protection, and partiality in their favour, these foreign servants have the best places, dress very gay, and appear both at home and abroad like gentlemen of a superior class, whilst your own natives, who are the poor neighbours and tenants sons of your own parishes, are so honest and blunt in their nature, they cannot tell lies, to flatter your foibles before your faces, and thus are starving for want of business, many of them forced to rob on the highway, to supply a morsel of bread; transported by scores to America, and daily finishing their prime and vigour of life, by a most shameful and melancholy death, at the gallows.—

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These things, noble Britons, are the forbidden fruits of foreign growth, and attraction.

By the exhibitions of the Royal academy, the vast improvements in architecture is astonishing, where many authors and their talents, would be buried in oblivion, and never could shew their works, their ingenuity, and inventive genius, in so fair a light to the view of the public, as they do at present, by the annual exhibitions, which has given our gentlemen and ladies in general, a taste of propriety, in the design, proportion in the parts, and beauty in the execution and finishing the performance, especially in architecture, and painting.

An old vamp'd up piece of painting, imported by a paltry second hand dealer, and puffed off by an artful auctioneer, cannot be knocked down for an hundred guineas as formerly ; any piece that brings a good price at present, must express the design, the curious hand and composition of a master.

Our houses are now built lightsome, airy and convenient, with good party walls, by act of parliament, to prevent the spreading of fires, without being dark, and damp below stairs, so peculiar to old buildings.

The common set of house-builders formerly in this city, were the most stupid, unenlightened set of men, in their way of business, perhaps on this side of the globe ; the generality of old houses have the foundation part without areas, which makes the house both dark, damp and uncomfortable.

A few narrow holes for windows below stairs, excluding the light, like an enemy, which gives it
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the air, and looks of a prison house; the narrow wooden stair case carried up in the centre of the house, covered over head and ears with a scanty bit of a sky-light, that when ascending from the kitchen, up to the first floor, you are forced to grope your way in darkness.

The face of the house, fronting a narrow dirty street, the hinder part, turning out his backside to the river Thames, and even that part choaked up with a few paltry sheds, called Warehouses---per example, Thames-Street, Wapping, &c.

Whether these faults lay in the bricklayer, or carpenter, or the wealthy citizen that own'd the building, or whether it lay in the fat of their bellies, or the bulk of their heads, we leave the learned to determine.

The new opening in Thames Street, of half a dozen houses, opposite the church of St. Mary Somerset, is as airy and beautiful, as any part of Cheapside, which does honour to the gentlemen that laid the plan, shewing a good pattern to the rest of their narrow minded neighbours, that Thames-Street may be easily altered, from one of the worst, to one of the best streets in the city; which from the great number of heavy loaded carts, passing continually from the custom-house, and other places, makes it absolutely necessary, for their own safety, health and public benefit, as well as their fellow citizens, especially in that narrow part of the city.

A witty young lady, newly married to a rich citizen, just arrived from a pleasant country seat,
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to live in one of these old fashioned houses,---says,--- the sons of these fathers, are like young puppies, just beginning to open their eyes, and come forward into day light.

All houses in town, on the sides of the river Thames should be constructed and built on a similar plan to the Adelphi ; a regular wharf faced with stone ; the warehouses arched over, and separated into different apartments, that any fire happening in one, cannot damage the others ; the floors raised above the level of spring tides ; the dwelling house erected over the warehouses ; the kitchen pantry and cellars, placed directly over the warehouses, and under the dwelling-house ; a fire in the warehouses cannot damage the dwelling house ; any accident in the dwelling-house, can never hurt the warehouses ; which on this plan, is a mutual security of both sides : and we presume that four middling stories above the kitchen, will be a sufficient height for the house ; your lofty steeple houses, in being exposed to the winds, the wet and the cold, can never be reputed handsome in these low situations ; thus the house would be airy, dry, and healthy, living in a pleasant situation, on the banks of a fine river, that would be envied by many thousands of people in trade and shipping.

We may suppose, there could be no greater pleasure to a city merchant, then a genteel airy house, fronting so beautiful a river as the Thames. Any situation above London bridge, might front both the street and the river, and enjoy the pleasing view of Surry hills, with the bridges, barges, boats, and passengers, continually passing, and re-passing,

passing, varying the scene with variety of objects, by the hourly ebbing and flowing of the tide; which ebbing and flowing, produces a constant circulation of fresh air, preventing the water from stagnating and stinking, like a dirty pond, or a piece of standing water. An Alderman of London, might sit in his first floor, dining and regaling, with his lady and family, or his friend and companions, overlooking his wines, his rum or his sugars, landing at the wharf, and storing in the warehouse, at the same time, enjoying the pleasant view of the country, and one of the most beautiful, navigable rivers in Europe.

It is amazing, that the India company should never think of laying out proper wharfs, with elegant warehouses, on the opposite sides of the river in Wapping and Southwark: their warehouses are most shamefully crowded, in little narrow streets, and paltry back lanes, which ought to be filled with citizens houses. The expence of their annual cartage, from the river to these warehouses, must amount to a vast sum, more than sufficient to buy the ground out and out for ever.

As the city of London is so famous for commerce, and merchants of experience, and sensibility, they ought to show an example to other places, to keep up their fame, honour and credit, in every thing that is convenient and elegant, relating to trade and navigation. Amongst such a number of gentlemen, learned and experienced architects, ingenious builders, and craftsmen, who have both encreased, and improved the buildings of this metropolis, beyond the common thoughts of men,

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and

and the romantic ideas of imagination, where no expence is spared by our nobility and gentry, to improve the plan, decorate the building, and furnish the apartments, so noble, beautiful and magnificent, far surpassing the very fancy, and fairy tale romances of our venerable fore-fathers.

But so strange and unaccountable are the little frailties of human nature, after all these expences, decorations and magnificence, expended on the costly edifice, among a society of men, so sensible, learned and ingenious, in their several professions, there never was a single idea, or the plan of an hour's thought adapted, to secure the building, or the family, who were continually surrounded and living in the middle of combustible wood, from falling a sacrifice to the most trifling accidents of fire. Which building and family, lieth every night in the year, at the mercy of a drunken fellow, with the snuff of a candle, a handful of shavings lying in a bye corner, a little thoughtless boy and girl, or a sleepy servant-maid drying linnen at the kitchen fire, besides many malicious accidents, to be entirely burnt down, and consumed before the morning. Many people wonder that a strong built house should be so easily consumed; but this wonder ceases, when they consider that every thing about us is liable to catch fire; our houses are floored, our rooms partitioned, and the roof covered with fir, a wood full of turpentine, and enriched with two or three coats of painting in oil; besides all our furniture naturally made of wood, without the least material or contrivance, to check its fury, or prevent its rapid progress in the apartments, or to give us half an hour's warning,

ing, to consult our reason or friends, how to act with safety, in these pressing moments, against such a furious merciless enemy. These are plain convincing proofs, that the master of every house and family, great or small, in town or country, should endeavour to make use of every precaution, that art and nature can furnish, to secure himself, his family and substance, from falling a prey to fire, or the sad misfortunes attending fires, to guard against these terrible accidents, with all the care and thought of human prudence, to make us and our families live and sleep with safety in our houses, without the fear and dread of falling a sacrifice to these momentary accidents.

C H A P. V.

THE best precaution we can find either by history, art, or nature, the aid of chymistry, or the mysterious tour of the Mineral world, with many years of thought, study and experience, on this most important subject, more than gentlemen can imagine, to prevent the fatal accidents of fire, from penetrating and spreading through different rooms in houses, is to provide good iron plates, such as usually convey the smoke, from iron stoves into the chimney. Let these iron plates be nailed on the cieling, in the place of lath and plaister, likewise on the doors, and sides of the room, especially that side of the wooden partitions, where lath and plaister is generally fixed. These iron plates are fire proof, which of course prevents the flame from

from catching both sides of the ceiling and partitions, becomes a check and hindrance to its furious progress, confines it to a narrow compass, prevents the wind from blowing the flames rapidly through the house, and of consequence gives people some time to conquer it; the fire cannot possibly ascend through the ceiling to the upper apartments, neither can it descend to the lower rooms below the flooring, which naturally confines the fire to the room or place where it commences; a thing of the greatest consequence, and hitherto utterly unknown, to get the fire easily subdued, and quickly extinguished. These plates prevent little streams of air from blowing thro' hidden cracks and openings in rooms, whereby people catch violent colds, unperceived, even in warm weather, at their own fire side, making the house more healthful, keeping out foul air, and nauseous smells, cooler in summer and warmer in winter: Prevents any accidents of water, from dropping through the ceiling to damage the furniture, and likewise bugs from harbouring in the crevices and wainscots of old houses, so very common in London in the cleanest houses.—To prevent the iron plates from taking rust; they may be painted over with coarse paint, or bedded with common plaister, will last as long as the house; in case of removing, are soon taken down, and refixed in other rooms, without damaging the plates: they may be ornamented with paper, painting or varnish, to any colour or fancy of the proprietor, in the most fashionable manner.

All sorts of shipping and cabins of ships, either great or small, requires at all times, the greatest
care

care and precaution, to prevent the dreadful effects of fire: cabins may be lined and floored over the boards, with these plates, which will prevent all sorts of vermine from breeding or harbouring in the pores and seams of the wood, and likewise any accident from careless boys drawing spiritous liquors out of a bottle or cask, by the flame or snuff of a candle catching hold of the spirits, and setting every thing in a flame about their ears in a moment: as they are exposed to momentary danger, every thing about them being of a combustible nature, the lives of the men, with the loss of ship and cargo, are in continual danger, almost without a possibility of getting the fire extinguished. Lining the cabin and lockers with these iron plates, might prevent a thousand little accidents, besides keeping them always neat and clean, in different climates, which to sea-faring people, is an object of the greatest importance. The iron plates in the London shops, are three feet long, and one foot four inches broad, about sixpence per foot common prices; the expence of any apartment, lined with these plates, is easily fumed up by any gentleman.

Lath and plaister work, on ceilings and partitions, is always dangerous; the intense heat sucks out the moisture of the plaister, making it crumble into pieces, the flame having free entrance, catches directly both sides of the timber work, the wind and the flame combined together encreases the fire and smoke with greater force, and rapid swiftness in its rage and fury, to destroy all before it. We suppose the plates may come as cheap as the price of common lath and plaister, and certainly

tainly both cheaper and sooner finished than the curious stucco figures of fancy, which answers no manner of utility towards the safety of the building ; in short, is nothing but a meer ornament to the cieling, according to the fancy of the workmen,

The public may reap the benefit of another material to prevent the progress of fires ; the common plain tiles, almost square, which is used for the roofs of houses, may be applied to line partitions, instead of lath and plaister ; they are cheap and easily got, may be soon fixed up, and bedded with common plaister, are well burnt and hard in substance, neither flame or air, wet or cold, can penetrate through them ; we may suppose for tradesmen's houses, in the way of œconomy, these tiles may answer best for partitions, and the iron plates for ceilings. As all fires makes a swifter progress amongst small houses, than it is possible to do in large lofty appartments, it is absolutely necessary to line narrow rooms with tiles ; likewise for greater safety, the little rooms may be floored over rough boards with tiles, which for beauty might be painted any common colour, or covered with a carpet.

Tiles for lining rooms, may be formed a foot square, and made of any coloured clay, either quite plain or glazed of any colour, as blue, green or cream coloured, like what is called the queen's earthen ware ; charming tiles might be made of tobacco pipe clay, which always retains a peculiar whiteness ; this clay is found in great plenty in Dorsetshire, within a few miles of Dorchester ; also in Shropshire, within a few miles of Shrewsbury ; likewise plenty of clay, but not so white,

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at the villages of Bow and Stratford, near White-chapple, where tiles may be formed of any size, and thickness, for London markets.

Well burnt tiles are possessed of many good qualities to answer this purpose; will never wear, take rust, or decay with age; in all sorts of weather will retain their colour, and glossy brightness, as when they are quite new out of the mold; no vermin can breed, or harbour about them, no wet, cold or grease can penetrate through them, are always clean and healthful, neither require paper, painting or white washing, like wainscot or lath and plaister. A circle of ladies over their delicious tea or coffee in a chamber lined with these shining materials, might fancy they were regaling in a Chinese palace, or enchanted fairy castle.

Some people may imagine, that common sized tiles are not large enough to line partitions, but they can be made both longer and broader of any coloured clay, either plain or glazed, to suit the taste or fancy of any gentleman; common sized bricks are but a small substance, but when made of good materials, how strong and lasting, fit to construct lofty arches, and build houses to any size or dimensions, that will indure for ages.

Tiles may be applied to line and floor cabins of ships, the little lockers and lodging births of officers, will stand without changing, by the variations of weather and climates; prevent any vermine from harbouring in the pores or seams of the wood about them, is neat, clean and wholesome, which to sailors is of the greatest consequence, besides securing them from a thousand little accidental
fires,

fires, which too often, by woeful experience, proves fatal to men, ship and cargoe.

Fires are not so frequent in Paris as London, for which some reasons may be given; fuel is not so plenty, and the French people in general are more inclined to dancing and sobriety than our people in London: another principle reason is, the houses in general at Paris are floored with tiles to the very garrets, which prevents a thousand little accidents from doing any damage, that in London would set the house on fire, and perhaps spread over the whole neighbourhood: this is constant proof in that city, to our traveling nobility and gentry, that good tiles may be used for the same purpose in the city of London.

There are numbers of people of fashion, and quality, with high titles, unacquainted with sea affairs, who are surprised how a ship can be so easily consumed by fire, that is swimming and surrounded with water; but the reason is plain and obvious by experience; the flooring, ceiling and sides of cabins, with the furniture and materials, in whatever place the fire commences, are all composed of combustible matter, of the most catching and fiery substance; every little hole, locker, closet, or bed room, where it enters, contains a fresh supply of fuel to the flame; likewise every port hole or window, are so many bellows to blow and increase its fury; the wind, smoke and fire united together, suffocates and blinds the poor sailors, and multiplies the swift burning flames; even the first supply of water, enrages the fiery element's fury, making it burst forth, with ten fold degrees

degrees of fierceness, and if possible to make the scene more distressful, the boats and ships in their company are afraid of their lives, in approaching to relieve them, by the promiscuous firing of the canon, and the danger of the ship on fire blowing up every moment about them.

In all close confined places, such as prisons, bridewells, &c. where prisoners cannot have fresh air, and proper exercise, neither well supplied with clean linen, and good provisions, which occasions amongst them, various modes of sickness and diseases; the smell and effluvia proceeding from them, is certainly very catching, and often proves fatal to clean genteel people, coming out of neat houses, and fresh air, into these close infected places; many instances of sudden mortality, have often happened in the compass of our memory, to numbers of gentlemen attending the sessions at the Old Bailey, London.

In the first place, in regard to their persons, make them wash their bodies all over once or twice a week, with fair water, and if possible, clean linen at least once a week, and walking in some open place three hours per day for exercise.

In regard to the building about them, the best and cheapest prevention, is to line the walls and partitions with well glazed tiles, which always remains neat, clean and healthful, prevents effluvia from lodging in the cracks and crevices of the plaister, brickwork, or stone-work, which may be washed any time with fair water, never requires scraping; white wash or plaister, will indure as long as the building; to crown the whole plan, en-

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large the windows, and throw in a free circulation of light and fresh air ; darkness makes them continually both dirty, sick and melancholly, and is the principal cause of the goal fever so fatal to both sexes.

Many people are surpris'd, amongst such a number of common bricklayers, and plaisterers, daily employed in this city, who are allowed by all gentlemen that employ them, to be a set of keen sighted fellows, in their way of business, who are continually handling and using these common tiles, that they should never stumble on the happy thought to apply them to line and floor rooms, at least in little houses, by way of preventing the fatal progress of fire, especially as they are continually employed, in building and repairing houses, that have severely suffered, by that calamity.

How shall we ascribe this neglect, to a vacancy of thought, or want of humanity ; their dulness of heads, or hardness of hearts, or being wilfully blind, to the very nature of good works, and void of the milk of human nature, in their brick and mortar composition.---This case of brick and mortar---we leave to the lawyers.

C H A P. VI.

IN the public papers, there is advertisements of rope ladders, alarm bells, and canvas machines, which are all pretty inventions, and precautions of safety ; if we could bring this obstinate element of
fire

fire, into any sort of good manners, or French politeness-- that is---never to enter upon any pretence, into these rooms or places, where ladders, bells or machines are fixed; as fire is as liable to commence in these rooms, as other places, and burn the machines, without mercy.

But suppose a rope ladder, or any sort of machine, is fixed to a window, as the generality of fires happen in the night, making the night appear still more dark to the sufferers, how it possible, that old men and women, people in sickness, nurses and children, can come down rope ladders, and machines, with safety at night, just awake, and terrified out of their sleep, that never was on a ladder, or machine perhaps in the whole course of their lives, and these are the very people most likely to be lost in the flames, by reason of their age, or infirmities,

We are informed of a chymical preparation, called fire-balls, that will extinguish a fire by explosion, or blowing it out; but who can determine where to place these balls, in what cellar, room or garret with safety; these balls are liable to take fire by accident, or by malicious servants, and may occasion the very calamity, we are striving to prevent; what master of a family could sleep in security, knowing he was in danger every night to be blown out of his bed, by the explosion of fire-balls, a furious composition of gun-powder.

1734, Stockholm, Sweeden. The states of this kingdom, offered a premium of twenty thousand crowns, for the best invention to stop the progress of accidental fires; Mr. Fuches, a German Physician, made a preparation to answer that end. An
house

house to try the experiment, was built on purpose at Legard island, with dry fir, pitch and tar, and a quantity of chips, which was set on fire, until the flames issued out of the windows, and through the top of the house, when he threw in one of the barrels, containing the preparation, which quenched the flames, and a second barrel cleared away the smoke, which was executed to the satisfaction of the spectators, and the honour of the inventor; but unluckily the flames broke out again, supposed to be some of the fire remaining in a hidden corner, or set on fire secretly, by some malicious person; the mob assembled on this occasion, taking it into their heads, that Mr. Fuches the inventor, was a cheat, and an imposture, fell upon him, and beat him so unmercifully, that he very narrowly escaped with his life, then left the city and country, and could not be persuaded to return, by a number of the most eminent citizens.

1761, May 19th, London. Mr. Godfrey, an eminent chymist, in Southampton street Covent-garden, showed his experiment for the extinguishing fires before the society of Arts and Sciences; several of the Royal family, and persons of distinction, of the polite and learned world—To try the experiment, an house was built of brick, in the fields, near Mary-le-bone, consisting of three rooms, one above another, a stair case and chimney, ceilings of lath and plaister, and waincoted with rough deal round the rooms, like a common house.

At twelve o'clock at noon, the ground floor, and one pair of stairs, were set on fire with shavings and faggots, until they were sufficiently in flames,

flames, three of the machines were thrown in, which by the immediate and sudden explosion soon extinguished the flames, and in a few minutes the smoke disappeared; by this time the fire-men reported that the stair case was on fire, which made it necessary to go to work with the second floor, which was done accordingly, but the experiment did not answer so well in this room, as the first instance; it was thought to be too hastily put in execution. The spirit of curiosity so strong in London, had brought together, perhaps twenty thousand people, who thinking they were imposed on, began to murmur, and be very much dissatisfied.—Mr. Godfrey then consented to a third experiment, in the uppermost room, which was entirely of wood; the flames were suffered to get to a great height, the window frames were destroyed, before the machines were thrown in, which being in full view of the body of spectators, sent them home without grumbling, with the approbation of the experiment.

From the most careful observation, every house on fire, of any size and dimensions, by the intense heat and force of the flame, the smoke will always take possession of the stair case, and the flame of course will follow the smoke, the stair case being an open cavity up to the top of the house, answers almost the purpose of a chimney, by attracting and collecting the body of smoke, into that open part of the house: supposing that the fire as yet, has not entered that place, and there is nothing but smoke on the stair case, that collected body of smoke, is so thick and suffocating for want of vent to fly out; that it's next to impossible that any person can descend down stairs, and those below cannot ascend up stairs to help them above; in this terrible case, when there is no proper door to escape out of the
roof

roof of the house, the unfortunate sufferers, driven to despair in the very last extremity, begin to look out of the windows, in hopes of some friendly relief, in these unhappy flying moments—a ladder reared up to the window would save their life—but alas—by some fatal want of thought, to spur up their reason, or humanity, that cannot be accounted for, among such a number of gazing spectators on these occasions, at the time of writing this treatise, there never was a ladder brought to save the life of any human being, in these dreadful short moments, between their death and eternity.

There is scarcely a street or a lane in this city or suburbs, without bricklayers, carpenters, or plaisterers, who all make use of ladders, in their way of business, but for want of thought, or a little premium to rouse up their diligence, you will never perceive one of these people, have the good nature, or the humanity, to bring a ladder where a fire happens, although it is soonest brought, and the thing most required, or wanted, as a ladder may be placed directly into cellars, doors, or windows, to help out the furniture, or the people at a moment's warning.—Too many unhappy persons have lost their lives, by leaping, or rather falling out of windows, as the last chance, to escape from the flames with life, who might been saved with a little fore thought, by a most easy simple contrivance; take the sheets or blankets of the bed, tie the corners of either sheet or blankets, lengthways together, throw up the sash, knock out the bottom pane with your elbow, least your hand be cut in breaking it, tie one corner of sheet or blankets where the
pane

pane is broke, or to the frame of a casement, either of them will bear the weight of a man ; any person may slip down with safety, by these sheets and blankets, or a rope to the ground : perhaps in their confusion, they can neither find a rope, sheets or blankets to slip down by. The heart of man cannot conceive half the danger that never was surpris'd by fire, the suffocating smoke, both blinds them, and choaks them, they neither know what place to avoid, or what place to fly to, in their terrors of body and mind, between flames, life and death, all united in a single moment against a poor helpless creature. Upon these occasions, there are plenty of idle spectators in the streets, let one or two run directly to the next neighbours, and borrow two blankets, a rug or a small carpet ; in short any thing that is strong enough, let four men hold them out, by the four corners, strong and tight, about a yard high from the ground, any person may leap down with safety, from any window, on this rug, blanket or carpet. If they can take a pillow in each hand, or hold a bolster, or perhaps some of their own clothes, or any soft bulky thing before their breast ; these bulky things will come first to the rug or blankets, and break the weight of the fall, with more ease and safety to the falling person.

We dont suppose, that any person sitting in an easy chair, reading a news-paper, or sipping a dish of sober tea or coffee, would chuse to try these experiments, through wantonness, or the idle whim of curiosity, but when people are frighted unawares, and surpris'd so swiftly, in these moments of despair and confusion, whose spirits are roused
to

to desperation, with flames on one hand, and the fear of untimely death on the other, who are perhaps in the bloom and vigour of life, as the danger increases, the value of life also increases.

In these swift flying moments, the least glimmering of relief, gives them a ray of joy, and deliverance, that can never be expressed in words; an idea that inspires their very heart and soul, with undaunted courage, firm resolution, and eager eyes, to push forward directly, and catch hold of the saving life experiment, which at other times, in their unruffled hours of life, in their calm hours of peace, quiet, and serenity of mind, the whole world, or ten thousand worlds, could never animate their spirits or tempt their bodily courage, to venture the like again, to execute so briskly and go through so bravely—but half the danger.

The common set of projectors, and builders, can never indure that other people should advise, contrive, or dictate any plan to instruct them, or guide them in their way of business; the lining of rooms and ceilings with iron plates, and the wooden partitions between chambers, with good plain tiles, or tiles of any size and colour, made on purpose, to confine the accident of fire to the room or place where it commences, that it may be easily extinguished:

Likewise a passage below stairs, and a proper door out to the roof of the house, that in case of any fatal accident, people may retreat out of the house with safety—is founded on as a plain principle to common sense, as the sun at noon day; yet as these principles

principles may clash, and interfere with some narrow minded trades folks, it may perhaps, be despised by these sort of people

But we suppose, like other novelties, it may require some space of time to bring it into common practice; perhaps it may have the fate of a French fashion in dress, the very people that laugh at it to day, will have it made, and wear it a month afterwards.

For with all the care, and experience of human knowledge, we can scarcely bring any mechanical invention to be intirely perfect at first; time and experience employs different men to work upon it, and different men, bring new thoughts to light, to ripen and mellow the design, and improve these new methods towards this humane, useful subject, to hammer, nail and clinch it into practice, and bring it forward if possible, to a greater degree of perfection, for the benefit of all families, either rich or poor, and the general welfare of the British Empire.

C H A P. VII.

SINCE the above methods was presented to the Society of Arts and Sciences, the new act for regulating buildings, and preventing fires, has been published. We have some reason to think, that several hints has been taken from this performance, as several members of that society are members of parliament, which is some convincing proofs that these observations are founded on reason and utility.

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We beg leave to presume, that all houses in public streets should be equal in height, in a direct even line with the street and the foot pavement, a proper area to every house; perhaps four stories above the kitchen or cellars; that is, five stories in height, from the foundation, may be deemed a proper height; the generality of houses in public streets are five or six stories high; one house near Bow Church, Cheapside, is seven little stories above the foot pavement. When people are crowded in a narrow space, the house is like a prison, neither so airy, pleasant, or healthful as other houses: when they stand in a line, equal in height, they have an equal prospect, and in case of fire, or any accidents, can help each other like friendly neighbours: and the height of the houses ought to be ascertained by the breadth of the street, to insure light and fresh air.

When common houses are not so lofty, the rents are not so high, which is a material circumstance to middling tradesmen; there is nothing sinks a young couple in trade sooner than a high rented house; government requires great sums to maintain fleets and armies, and these cannot be kept up without high taxes; the rents of houses, are screwed up to such an high pitch, by the avarice of landlords, that few tradesmen now a days can push forward in trade so well as formerly, the rents and taxes, like old father Time, keep creeping slowly on them, and swallows almost all the profits of their trades. The real interest of landlords is to keep rents of houses low, that tenants may pay up punctually, without breaking, running away.

away, or turning out bankrupts——but to their shame be it spoken, their miserly avarice overpowers their humanity and reason.

They are ransacking sea and land, grasping and over reaching inferior tradesmen in all sorts of bargains, to scrape up twenty, thirty or forty thousand pounds, to make a splendid fortune for a son or a daughter, who are puffed up in this manner out of their element, neither good trades-folks, nor people of quality, but a linsey woolsey between both.

Some weather beaten rake of nobility, is tempted to court the daughter, and take her in marriage, more for the sake of her fortune than the love of her person; thus the innocent young lady is sacrificed to that foolish whim of vanity, aggrandising the merchant's family; he soon behaves in a rude manner, despising his wife in his heart; the lady of course, can never love sincerely (such a surly lord of a husband—thus in general, these money loving matches bring on the unhappy marriage.

The son and heir breaking loose like a bird out of a cage, runs galloping-gee-ho, into the gay world, whistling thro' thick and thin, whipping and spurring, neck or nothing, to all public places, counting the minute, the hour, and the honour, to associate with some horse racing, high flying nobility; then galloping carelessly over the course, bets high on the turf, drinks deep in the bowl, and roars loud at the table—done my lord for a hundred guineas at cards—and loses, lively with spirit, the old hoarded cash, with a forcing smile, and a city air of gentility.

These

These racing young lordlings, soon chouses him out of his guineas, with a sneer, and a laugh into the bargain, at the queer humours of Mr. Squire wou'd-be, the quality son of the old sober citizen--take notice such fathers, these are the galloping frailties of too much hoarding.

N. B. In the city of London, there are more eminent merchants, that have raised fortunes from small beginnings, than others with thousands bequeathed them—to their honour be it known.

It's amazing how rents have been raised within these few years, in and about this metropolis, and in general throughout the kingdom; houses that let for thirty pound, per annum, raised up to sixty, and all others in proportion; the house growing older, of course wants more repairs, and the necessities of life much dearer than formerly, makes rent and taxes fall heavy on common tradesmen; when gardeners and farmers pay advanced rents for their grounds, they must have advanced prices for their goods; a good fruit time, and harvest, teeming with plenty, through the bounty of Providence, will make but little difference in London market prices. This is the canker worm in the bud, that destroys the fruit before it is come to perfection.

The State of the Case.

When the lease is expiring, the rent is advanced directly, the old tenant bids high, rather than be turned out of his ancient dwelling; a young tradesmen receives a legacy, or marries a girl with a little money, without experience in life or in trade,

trade, he pushes for the house at any rent, thus the house is the ruin of both, and the greedy avarice of landlords is the ruin of both these honest tradesmen.

Some Abstracts from the Building Act, 1774.

From the best information we can find, the first act of any consequence, for regulating buildings, and preventing fires, was made after the fire of London, by Charles II. and this present act, makes the ninth or tenth since that period, which shews that the legislature have taken every precaution in their power, from time to time, to regulate and beautify this city, endeavouring by these means, to preserve the lives, health, and property of the inhabitants.

The lord mayor and aldermen, of the city of London, are empowered to appoint proper persons, experienced in building, and duly sworn to do justice, for surveyors, and likewise the justices of the peace, at the quarter sessions in Westminster, &c. before these last acts, the builders might build high or low, thick or thin, back or forwards, just as they pleased without any controul, which is fully testified, by the shameful irregularity, outs and in's, of our public streets, especially St. James's Street, fronting the Royal Palace, as is well known by the roguery of some builders, and the avarice of others, that new houses have tumbled down before quite finished; but these new surveyors, who are as knowing in art, and as skilful in building as themselves, will be a constant check over them, to oblige them, and make them build both

both strong, regular and uniform, which will be of infinite service to our nobility and gentry, taking part of the care from them, and preventing their being cheated, and loaded with impositions, thro' the avarice, quirks and quibbles of artful and designing men, which has often led the way to the ruin of many honest gentlemen.

All sorts of buildings are divided, and brought into the form and number of seven classes; the owner or master builder, must give the surveyor of that district, at least, twenty-four hours notice, and in default of such notice, to forfeit twenty pounds, and treble satisfaction to the surveyor, that he may view the foundation in proper time, and see that all the regulations of this act, from time to time, are well and truly observed by the workmen and builder.

When the building is finished, the said surveyor, to be paid for his trouble and attendance, by the owner or master, at the opinion and discretion of two or more justices of the peace for that parish; the first class of building, any sum not exceeding three pounds ten shillings, and less sums in proportion to the other classes; for the seventh, or smallest class of buildings, the sum of ten shillings and sixpence, and for any addition or alteration in the said class, five shillings, as a recompence for the surveyor's care, trouble and attendance.

The constable and beadles, of any parish where fire happens, are to repair directly to the place, with their staff of office, and use their utmost authority, to prevent thieves amongst the mob, and give all the assistance in their power to help their distressed neighbour.

If

If any fire happens through neglect, or carelessness of any servant, either dwelling house or out house, in any parts of the kingdom, such servant or servants, when found guilty, shall forfeit one hundred pounds to the Church wardens of that parish, to make some retaliation, to the poor sufferers, and in case of poverty, to be committed to the common gaol, or house of correction, for the time and space of eighteen months, at hard labour.—The insurance office, who give coats and badges, to waterman in their service, who by experience, are found very useful at fires, more than other people not used to venture so far at these times of confusion, and places of danger. Every office may keep thirty watermen, and these men are never to be pressed, for either sea or land service; their names and places of abode to be registered without fee or reward, at the office of the secretary of the admiralty.

Any person or persons, who are found guilty, of setting houses or buildings on fire, wilfully or maliciously, with a view of gaining to themselves the insurance money, the directors of the insurance office, upon proof that the party is guilty of fraud, have it in their power to apply the said money, in rebuilding or repairing the premises as far as the said insurance money will go, any house or buildings that have been demolished, or damaged by the said fire.—All chimnies, where constant fires are kept, should be swept twice in the year—the occupiers of rooms or lodgings, when their chimnies take fire by any neglect, are liable to pay the expences of the fire engines, &c, to the Church-wardens, at the discretionary power of the justices of the

the peace for the said parish. There shall be no iron, tin or copper pipes or funnels, fixed on the front of any building, next any public street, square or court, in the first, second, third and fourth classes of building—Every parish is to have three ladders, the length of first, second and third stories, to help goods or people out of windows.—The Church-wardens of every parish, are to fix plugs or cocks on the mains, for a ready supply of water to the engines; when the said mains are removed or mended, the water companies are to keep them in repair afterwards; they are to have a proper mark on the wall of the opposite house, to open them at a minute's warning—The Turncock man, that lets on the first water, shall be paid by the Church-wardens, ten shillings—The first engine that is brought to the fire shall have thirty shillings, the second twenty shillings, and the third ten shillings. These rewards to be paid by the church-wardens of the parish where the fire happens, with a proviso, that they are well oiled when brought, all fit to work, and in complete order.

The sun fire insurance office, have a floating fire engine, continually moored at Black Friars bridge, at their own expences, for the conveniency of extinguishing any fires that may happen near the river side.

Thus by the care and attention of the legislature, in compiling and passing acts of parliament, to regulate all sorts of buildings, making them beautiful to the eye, and solid in substance, to resist the fury of fire, and appointing proper surveyors, to see them carried into practice, duly executed,

ted and properly finished, from the nobleman's lofty mansion, to the Liliputian cottage, by the convincing proofs above mentioned, of the unhappy accidents by fire, which are but a few selected out of hundreds by way of example, to refresh the memory; showing the vast quantity of goods and valuable furniture which have been destroyed on these melancholy occasions, amounting to millions of pounds, besides many valuable lives lost for ever to the public, with the intire ruin of their own private families.

These new methods are published to prevent the progress of fire, with many other accidents; and are so easily and speedily put in practice, at a moment's warning; and necessary to be read and known in all private families, from the highest peer to the lowest peasant.

If fires are suffered to run so great a length, with so many lives lost in a single house as formerly, we may safely venture to pronounce, the people are blameable themselves, by not taking care and precaution to prevent it, especially as they have both new methods and fair warning given them, and laid open in so plain a manner, before their eyes, their ears, and their understanding.

F I N I S.

I and properly built, from the neighborhood
in relation to the situation of the
factory, which are a few
of the buildings by way of carrying on
the property, showing the vast quantity of goods
which have been delivered
in this neighborhood, according to the
of goods, which many of the
to the public, with the intention of
over private families.

I feel new methods are required to prevent the
of the many other establishments
and easily and rapidly put in practice, as a
means of warning, and preventing and saving
is all private families, and
the lowest possible.



If fires are left to burn a long time, with
to many lives and a single house as to many
we may have to prevent the
and prevent the loss of property, by not making out
precaution to prevent it, especially as they have
with new methods and have been given them
and old ones is to have a better, before they
over their care, and then understand.

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